



Porthcawl's marathon heroes.
(SEE PAGE 10 FOR DETAILS).

Bridgend & Porthcawl

GEM



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THURSDAY, APRIL 29TH, 2010

SISTERS BOOST CHILDREN'S CHARITY

Why Bethan and Sian were moved to run in the London Marathon

BRIDGEND sisters Sian Jones and Bethan Cooper ran the Virgin London Marathon on Sunday, April 25, in aid of Make-A-Wish Foundation® UK, the charity that grants wishes to children and young people fighting life-threatening illnesses.

Sian (30) and Bethan (28), completed the 26 miles, alongside more than 36,000 other runners, in 5 hours, 19 minutes.

Sian explained: "We ran for Make-A-Wish because our other sister is a physiotherapist and works with children. She told us about the amazing work the charity does, as



Bethan Cooper and Sian Jones complete the 2010 London Marathon for Make-A-Wish Foundation UK.

she has recently worked with a child who had a wish granted."

Bethan added: "The child's family even sponsored us, which we found so touching. It gave us much more meaning and helped us to keep going. You just have to finish

for the children."

Neil Jones, chief executive of Make-A-Wish, commented: "We are delighted and privileged that Sian and Bethan chose to run for us this year. This fantastic achievement by all our runners will help us enormously in continuing to fund magical wishes for the 1,000 children who will turn to us this year."

It is not too late to support Sian and Bethan. To make a donation, to refer a child for a special wish or for information on places available in half marathons and 10k runs later in the year, visit www.make-a-wish.org.uk

A NEW footbridge, designed to provide cyclists and pedestrians with a safe route across the Bridgend Northern Distributor road, was lifted into place over the weekend.

The bridge forms a key element of the infrastructure for the new £200 million Parc Derwen 'village-style' community, planned for the 200-acre site near Coity, Bridgend.

The new bridge spans the A4061 dual carriage way and will provide a link between Parc Derwen and Litchard

Funded by the Parc Derwen Consortium, comprising the Welsh Assembly Government, Persimmon Homes and Taylor Wimpey, the £600,000 bridge was designed by Cardiff-based consulting engineers Parsons Brinckerhoff, and constructed by Hirwaun-based Walters UK Ltd.

The 2.5 metre-wide bridge, which has a 45 metre span and weighs 43 tonnes, was lifted onto specially-prepared concrete abutments using a 500 tonnes crane.

The A4061 was closed to traffic during the lift.

An Assembly spokeswoman said: "Parc Derwen will provide

New bridge brings Parc Derwen development another step nearer

STEADY AS SHE GOES!
The bridge is lowered into place



ABOVE: The new bridge that will link Litchard with the new Parc Derwen development.

1,500 new homes, 150 of which will be affordable housing, and make a significant contribution towards the local authority's housing requirements, identified in the Unitary Development Plan.

"The new village-style community will include a small shopping centre, walking and cycling routes, open green spaces, parkland, formal and informal

play areas and an extensive green buffer zone between Coity and Parc Derwen."

The key off-site highway improvements for the development have already been completed, including the Coity bypass and Junction 36 works.

Under the Section 106 obligation accompanying the planning permission, developers will be contributing

more than £7 million towards local facilities and amenities, including a new primary school and community centre.

Ieuan Wyn Jones, Minister for the Economy and Transport, has said he is "pleased" to see preparatory work was well under way.

Site infrastructure work began in early November 2009 and Taylor Wimpey and

Persimmon will start house building this summer, with homes available for occupation before Christmas.

Sara Taylor, regional sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey, commented:

"As part of the new Parc Derwen development, Taylor Wimpey will be building 236 two, three and four bedroom new homes in a variety of styles."

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Police hunt Pyle burglar

POLICE are hunting a suspected burglar who targeted four addresses in Pyle early on Tuesday, April 20.

Three sheds and a house were burgled at Cribwr Square.

Witnesses have described seeing a white man in his late 30s or early 40s, about 5 feet 8 inches tall of small build and with short greying hair, acting suspiciously in the area.

Among property outstanding is a distinctive 'FELT F75'-make racing bike, said Detective Constable James Rees of Porthcawl CID.

"Investigations are continuing into these burglaries and we would like to hear from

anyone who may recognise this person.

"I am also urging householders to remember to ensure their houses and outbuildings are made secure, and to report any suspicious people to the police immediately.

"In recent months, we have seen a 10 per cent fall in burglaries in the area compared with the same period last year.

"We will be making every effort to ensure that the perpetrator of these crimes is brought to justice."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Constable Rees at Porthcawl CID on 101, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Centre says happy 70th birthday to their volunteer Iris!



RECENTLY, Iris Eley, a volunteer at Sandville Self Help Centre, celebrated her 70th birthday in style (above) with Sister Gwyneth Poacher, family and friends. (Photograph by Keith E Morgan)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(see our contact details below)

'Thank you for my wonderful medical care'

ON March 31 this year, I was the victim of a road accident in Pontyclun in which I received some rather nasty injuries to my head and ear, and I am very grateful to be alive, thanks in no small part to the staff of the surgery in Pontyclun.

I have now returned home after a stay on Ward 4 of the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, where I received excel-

lent treatment from the staff. Thank you all!

I have been overwhelmed by the care, concern and love that has been shown to me by the people of Pontyclun. I have been showered by cards, flowers and gifts of all sorts.

I cannot begin to tell me how amazed this has made me feel.

Thank you all so much.

I hope to get back to normal soon and thank you all in person.

Sue Saunders,
Pontyclun

'All Hands to Flying Stations'

DID you serve on board any of the light fleet carriers, HMS Bulwark, HMS Albion or HMS Centaur?

The HMS Bulwark Albion Centaur Association is open to anyone who served at any time on these ships.

There is a magazine three times per year, plus events including AGM/Socials, sea-days with our new ships, HMS Albion and Bulwark, and anniversary commemorations at

home and abroad.

This year's AGM and social is at HMS Nelson, Portsmouth on Saturday, May 8.

We also sponsor sea cadets from our affiliated SCCs on the Training Ship Royalist.

Enquiries to Leigh Easton, Glenmoray, Hayford Place, Cambusbarron, Stirling, FK7 9JX; e-mail at

ngsfo@tiscali.co.uk or visit our website for further details at www.bulwarkassoc.plus.com

Leigh Easton, (Membership Secretary).

Council's 'freedom' request over mystery shopper's report

BRIDGEND Town Council may use the Freedom of Information procedure to obtain facts from the Post Office about the 'mystery shopper' investigation into services at the post office in Dunraven Place.

The town council complained about long queues and waiting times but was told that a mystery shopper had been sent

along and found only five or six people in the queue and waiting times of between five and ten minutes.

The town council challenged this assertion and asked for the raw data on which it was based.

Coun Bob Burns said they should know which days the mystery shopper had been there and what times of day because those were crucial facts.

The Post Office has refused to disclose

any further details of the procedures involved because the information could be used by competitors.

Coun David Unwin said that the council was none the wiser following its request and there was still a problem at the post office.

Coun Bob Burns insisted that the council should not be fobbed off by "management speak" and should use the FOI process to get the information it needs.

Coun Unwin commented: "Nothing asked, nothing gained."

It was agreed to pursue this option.

'Poor quality' CCTV footage at Wildmill

STREET lights at the Precinct in Wildmill may be upgraded - after complaints were made by Bridgend Town Council over the poor quality of the CCTV footage recorded from cameras in the area.

The town council was told by Valleys To Coast (V2C), which owns the estate, that the cameras belonged to BCBC and were part of their network.

The town council had paid for one to be upgraded with infra red but the poor street light-

ing was affecting it.

V2C has been in touch with the street lighting department of the council to see if the two lights that the council owns can be upgraded. V2C can then consider improving its own light in the area.

Coun David Unwin said that the county borough was raising the profile of the CCTV network and was considering things like street lighting upgrades as part of that.

He said: "There's no question that we need the CCTV system updated and that we will get a better service ultimately. We should await further developments."

BCBC issues warning over buying event tickets online

BRIDGEND County Borough Council's Trading Standards team is backing a national campaign to raise awareness among consumers buying event tickets online.

The campaign highlights the key things consumers should ask themselves before buying

tickets online:

- How has the website got these tickets to sell? Check with the venue to find out when tickets are being released for sale and when the tickets will be sent out.

- What are others saying about the website? Search the internet to find out what other people's experiences have been.

- How can you contact

the company? Check that you know their full geographic address and check they have a working landline phone number.

- Can they provide ticket details? Ensure that the face value of the tickets and the seat location are clearly listed.

- Do they provide refunds? Make sure there is a refund policy in case something goes wrong.

Helen Picton, head of Trading Standards at Bridgend County Borough Council, said: "These are sensible precautions which will help you stay safe when shopping for tickets online."

"If you want to be sure of seeing your favourite band or securing seats for that must-see show this summer, stop and ask yourself if you are buying from a reputable internet trader first."

"If you have any concerns or complaints, contact Consumer Direct."

Consumer Direct can be contacted by visiting www.consumerdirect.gov.uk or phone 0845 4040506.

WRITE IN

• We welcome your views and other items. Please send them to the Editorial Department, The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL (Tel: 01446 774484)

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 6)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
29 Thur	07.37	10.0	19.58	9.9
30 Fri	08.19	9.8	20.39	9.8
01 Sat	09.00	9.6	21.13	9.4
02 Sun	09.37	9.1	21.56	9.0
03 Mon	10.13	8.6	22.32	8.6
04 Tues	10.55	8.1	23.16	8.1
05 Wed	11.39	7.5		
06 Thur	00.09	7.6	12.41	7.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

LOCAL INFORMATION

MADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend
Westminster office - 02072194417. Constituency office - 47 Nolton Street, Bridgend. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am - 12pm (by appointment only). Telephone 01656 750002.
HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP for Goglem
Constituency Office 01656 737777
JANICE GREGORY AM for Goglem
Constituency Office 01656 860034
CARWYN JONES AM for Bridgend
Constituency office 01656 664320
Bethan Jenkins AM for South West Wales
Telephone 01639 643549

BRIDGEND CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau, Ground Floor, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend CF31 1JD 01656 654951 - Open: Monday: 10am to 2pm - information only; Tuesday to Friday: 10am to 12.30pm - advice sessions. Tuesday to Friday 12.30pm to 1.30pm - information only.
MAESTEG CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau 01656 734662

POLICE Bridgend 01656 655555

Porthcawl 01656 785411

Maesteg 01656 732122

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111

(Emergency number 999)

COASTGUARD 01792 366534

GAS (escapes and emergency) 0800 111999

ELECTRICITY (power cuts) 0800 0520400

WATER SUPPLY (emergency) 0800 0520130

FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188

HELPLINES

Alcohol and drugs:

Drinkline 0800 9178282

National Drugs Helpline 0800 776600

DASH 01656 650686

SSAFA - Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families in need 01656 785435

RAF Association Welfare Officer

01495 249522/01446 740522

SAMARITANS (emotional support) 01656 662333

MENTAL DISTRESS

(Mental Health Matters) 01656 767045

CHILDLINE 0800 1111

NSPCC 0800 800500

RSPCA 0300 123 0744

WOMEN'S AID 01656 766139

Bridgend Carers' Centre 01656 658479

Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend) 01656 651490

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH

COUNCIL

Housing service

(General inquiries) 01656 643643;

(emergencies out of hours) 01656 643643;

(homelessness) 01656 643643.

EDUCATION 01656 643643

LEISURE AND COMMUNITY

SERVICES 01656 642677

HIGHWAYS (drains, blockages etc) 01656 643643

HIGHWAYS EMERGENCIES

(outside normal working hours) 07831 143600

SOCIAL SERVICES

(general enquiries) 01656 642200

SOCIAL SERVICE EMERGENCIES

(outside normal working hours) 01443 204010

HOSPITALS Princess of Wales Hospital,

Bridgend 01656 752752/668090.

Bridgend and District NHS Trust

01656 752752/668090.

VOLUNTARY WORK Bridgend Association of

Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) 01656 810400

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Brackla Community Council 01656 767072

Bridgend Town Council 01656 659943

Cefn Cribwr Community Council 01656 741354

Coity Higher Community Council 01656 656358

Cornelly Community Council 07882 044798

Pyle Community Council 0790 460 4049

Coychurch Higher Comm Council 01656 863418

Coychurch Lower Comm Council 01656 647216

Garw Valley Community Council 01656 736751

Laleston Community Council 01656 656506

Llangynwyd Lower Comm Council 01656 720086

Llangynwyd Middle Comm Council 01656 738804

Maesteg Town Council 01656 732631

Merthyr Mawr Community Council 01656 670058

Newcastle Higher Comm Council 01446 750663.

Ogmore Valley Community Council 01656 849402

Pencoe Town Council 01656 869031

Porthcawl Town Council 01656 782215

St Brides Minor Comm Council 01656 725031

Ynysawdre Community Council 01656 736751

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ABOVE: Ceri Anderson and her husband Jonathan. (Photograph by Keith E Morgan).

LOCAL CHOIR IS GOING ON A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY TO THE WEST

THE Kenfig Hill Male Voice is making a sentimental journey to west Wales to sing at a testimonial concert for a long-standing member who passed away two years ago.

On Saturday, May 8, the choir will be singing in the Dolau Inn in New Quay in Cardiganshire, in memory of Royston Haig John.

The evening's entertainment starts at 8pm and all proceeds from the concert are going to Cancer Research UK.

Why New Quay? Because Royston's daughter, Ceri Anderson, the former town clerk in Porthcawl, retired last year from her council duties and took

over the management of the Dolau Inn in New Quay with her husband Jonathan.

Ceri told The GEM: "My dad was born in Kenfig Hill in 1925 and joined the RAF at 18. He was a keen sportsman and played rugby for Cardiff, Neath, Bridgend, and of course Kenfig Hill.

"When he unexpectedly became a widower in 1972, dad decided to join the choir and he always said that this was one of the best decisions he ever made.

"Not only did he make many good friends and meet some very interesting people, for example Whoopi Goldberg, Muhammad Ali and Bryn Terfel, but he was also given the opportunity to travel all over the world, to

Canada, Norway, Germany, Poland to name but a few.

"I was also fortunate in that I joined him on a few occasions and also went to Germany as well as York and the Royal Albert Hall."

She continued; "Dad was a loyal member of the choir for more than 25 years until he passed away two years ago, and I feel that by inviting Kenfig Hill Choir to visit the Dolau, I will be receiving his stamp of approval with regards to my decision to take over the pub.

"There will be a collection and raffle on the night and all cash raised will be going to Cancer Research UK."

WHO WILL LOOK AFTER 'BABES'

The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

Babes is a seven-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

A Dogs Trust spokeswoman said: "She is a

very sweet and affectionate dog. She loves people and having a cuddle.

"She is quite overweight at the moment and is on a diet to try

and regain her figure! She is housetrained and fine to be left for a few hours."

Type of home needed: She will suit a home with someone who has

owned dogs before. She can live with children. She will need some further socialising around other dogs to help improve her canine social skills.

The Dogs Trust annual summer fete and fun dog show is happening on Sunday, July 4 at Margam Country Farm (Twyn yr Hyd House entrance) 11am-4pm, a fun day out for all the family.

For more information, telephone 01656 724598.

Curry night at Sandville centre

SANDVILLE Self Help Centre at Ton Kenfig will be holding yet another 'hot stuff' curry evening at 7.30pm on Friday, May 14.

All are welcome. £5 buys a curry and pint, together with an evening of entertainment.

BMX track plans 'could benefit Llynfi valley'

AN ambitious plan to set up a BMX track in Caerau has cleared an important hurdle.

The Development Control Committee has voted to support the plan, but the final decision will be taken by the full council because the proposal is out of accord with the Bridgend Unitary Development Plan.

Caerau Development Trust submitted the application to create the track for community use on part of the old Coegnant Colliery site behind Coegnant Road.

The site has been reclaimed and formed into a series of level plateaux. The site has stood unused for many years. It will measure just over 100 yards square and the track will be laid out as a U within a U.

There will be obstacles, 90 degree berms, staging pens, a start hill, plus parking and spectator areas.

The track will be made of compacted stone with the start hill in tarmac

and there will be a seven-foot high fence around the track.

Access will be via stiles to prevent it being used by motorcyclists.

Up to 8,000 tons of clay sub soil will be required to complete the track, although some of this may be obtained on site.

There are no plans for any buildings, although a container may be placed there to provide basic shelter and storage facilities.

Access will be by a track from Coegnant Road. The track will be available to the public all day and every day, but will not be floodlit.

Planning officer David Llewellyn said that the site had been allocated for employment purposes in the UDP so it was considered to be a departure from that and has been advertised in the press.

The site is owned by the council, and no objections were lodged by any residents or councillors.

Mr Llewellyn said that while the plan was out of

accord, the site had been vacant for a considerable number of years and could be re-assessed with a view to bringing it back into beneficial use.

Other land on the same site has been designated for leisure so that could be re-designated for employment to make up for any shortfall.

The BMX track would only occupy about one to one-and-a-half hectares of land, leaving 14 hectares for employment and recreational purposes.

Mr Llewellyn said, that given the minor nature of the proposal, it was unlikely to prejudice any plans for future mixed-use development of the site.

He added that the prospect of this site being needed for employment use now, or in the future, was unlikely.

The scheme could also have a spin-off for local businesses like shops and cafés.

He explained that the scheme would also complement on-going regeneration initiatives in

Caerau and the upper Llynfi valley, especially the expansion of cycle tourism with links to the Afan Argoed and Glyncoirwg and their mountain bike trails.

He added: "In this respect, the track is ideally placed immediately adjacent to the cycle route. It is a complementary facility which could benefit the whole of the Llynfi Valley."

This would be the only venue for BMX biking along the M4 corridor and would be a positive tourist development for the borough.

Officers said that the site would be 65 to 80 yards away from the nearest houses in Coegnant Road and Duffryn Place, and will be adequately screened and sufficiently remote not to cause any problems with noise, disturbance or visual impact.

They recommended referring the application to full council as one that the development control committee is not disposed to refuse, and this was agreed.

Lions in bow ties... only at the May Fayre!

PORHCRAWL Lions Club will once again be holding their annual May Fayre in the grounds of The Rest Hotel, Porthcawl, on Bank Holiday Monday, May 3.

The fayre will be opened by the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Rosemary Deere, at 11am and a great family day is promised.

There are side shows, stalls, exhibitions, a large book sale, charity displays, children's rides, and food stalls.

In the arena will be displays by the Blue Delta Jazz Band, Porthcawl mini rugby, 360 Squadron ATC Band and Gower mini soccer team.

A Lions spokesman said: "One of the highlights of the day will be the fun dog show timed to start at 12.30pm, organised by PAWS, for the discerning dog owner to parade his or her best friend.

"So, if you have a pretty or a handsome doggie now is your chance to show off your pet. There are prizes."

This is the 30th year of Porthcawl Lions Club and during that time they have raised well over £250,000 for all types of local, national and international charities and appeals.

Seventy-five per cent of all funds raised have gone to local causes in Porthcawl and surrounding areas.

One of the founder members of the Porthcawl Lions Club, Don Tickner, said: "This year could be the best ever May Fayre, with so much going on for all ages to enjoy."

Currently, the club has 23 male members and eight lady members, all of whom will be seen on the day dressed in white with colourful bow ties.

The spokesman added: "This is a family day event with, lots of games for the children to play and lots of events to satisfy the adults. So...come along and enjoy yourself."

Residents are urged to secure their sheds

RESIDENTS in Pencoed are being advised to check the security of their sheds and any out-buildings after a number of burglaries have occurred in the area in recent days.

Neighbourhood police constable, Sam Beaumont, said: "We have experienced a recent spate of shed burglaries in Pencoed.

"Thieves are targeting sheds and garages for valuable equipment such as power tools, bikes and sports equipment.

"Home owners can

make it more difficult for burglars by implementing simple crime prevention procedures such as using strong locks, fixing non-return screws to door hinges or chaining larger items.

"It may be an idea to buy an alarm which can be bought for under £20 from most DIY shops.

"Finally, please contact the police should you witness any suspicious activity."

Anyone with information regarding these burglaries is asked to contact Bridgend police station on 101, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Curry night at Sandville centre

SANDVILLE Self Help Centre at Ton Kenfig will be holding yet another 'hot stuff' curry evening at 7.30pm on Friday, May 14.

All are welcome. £5 buys a curry and pint, together with an evening of entertainment.

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'BE MORE FLEXIBLE'

- Porthcawl council is urged

A LEADING
activist
in
Porthcawl
has
asked the town
council to reconsi-
der its attitude to vol-
untary organisa-
tions.

John Berry, who is president of Porthcawl YMCA, wrote to the council about the way in which the tourism and events committee is being organised.

This committee consists of councillors and representatives of outside organisations.

Mr Berry said that he had almost walked away from the committee but had decided instead to write to the council.

He was referring to a decision taken by the council, without any consultation, to forbid organisations on this committee to send a substitute if their usual representative was unavailable.

He described the decision as "arbitrary."

His letter went on: "The town council over the last five years has pulled into itself more and more of the running of town events."

"I vividly recall meetings of the T and E committee where one almost fought for a seat because of the number of town organisations present."

"We would leave such meetings, having made decisions, and every person present would go away with a task - very

little was left to the town clerk. The erosion of this principle has removed a great deal of goodwill between the town council and the voluntary sector."

Mr Berry said that the decision to ban substitutes was creating an even greater void between the statutory and voluntary sector.

He went on: "We are led to believe that the town council wishes good working relationships with the community - regrettably its actions belie that philosophy."

"Such a rigid attitude does not work within the voluntary sector, and the lamentable lack of understanding by the town council augurs ill for the future."

"I therefore request a reconsideration of this resolution towards a greater flexibility."

Mr Berry also asked the council to look again at the terms of reference of the T and E committee and he questioned why matters like the town council float in the carnival were discussed there: "I do not see that this is the business of the committee."

"This is a matter for town councillors. I suspect if I were to ask the committee to set up a working party to advise the YMCA, or another organisation, on its float for the carnival, it would

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

not be allowed.

"We have been told in the past that the committee could discuss only matters on the agenda but a councillor was allowed to bring to the committee this issue of the carnival. Is it one rule for councillors and another for the rest of us?"

He also asked what support and training is available to new councillors, especially those taking responsibility as committee chairmen for the first time.

He ended by saying: "I hope this does not sound like sour grapes. I work hard for the community and I will continue doing so. I hope it will not be regardless of the town council."

Coun Wendy Ingram, chairman of tourism and events, said a letter should be sent apologising for the fact that the council did not deal with this letter when it was written in October, and inviting Mr Berry to attend a meeting.

Coun Norah Page asked why this letter had come up again, having been on the agenda in October.

The clerk, Alison Leyshon, said that she was not working for the council last October and it appeared that the letter should have been discussed at the next administration committee meeting, but did not do so.

She said it had to come to the full council again because six months have elapsed.

Coun Chris Smart, who chairs the administration committee, apologised and said it should now be referred to that

committee: "There is an issue about co-opted members. We cannot have co-opted members being replaced by others as they are part of the decision-making process and have to sign the code of conduct."

"Working groups do not operate in the same way because they are not decisions makers. We do not have substitutes if councillors do not attend."

Coun David Deere said that a meeting should be held with Mr Berry and then the issue

should be discussed at the administration committee.

Coun Gerald Davies said that a special meeting should be called before the council's annual meeting in May.

"When we form these committees at the annual meeting, we must take on board what the voluntary sector is saying."

"If the council is not doing things as effectively as possible, we can overcome those problems."

"We must arrive at a way forward before the AGM."

This was agreed.

Man's sex attack conviction plea is thrown out

A YOUNG Maesteg woman was "scared and frustrated" when she was indecently assaulted in a Bridgend club, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Her attacker, Jack Davies, 24, of Tonypandy, had his appeal against a conviction by Bridgend Magistrates on a charge of sexual assault dismissed.

He had been sentenced to a 12-month community order, ordered to carry out 100 hours unpaid work for the community, and directed to pay the victim (aged 19) £100 compensation and £200 court costs.

He was also ordered to register as a sex offender for five years.

The court heard that on June 26 last year, the victim went with friends to celebrate a birthday at the Elements night club in Bridgend.

As she crossed the dance floor and approached the bar, Davies, sitting on a stool, leant forward and squeezed one of her breasts hard.

She became upset and as she left the spot, friends of Davies shouted insults at her and she was struck on the head by a hard object causing her to fall to the floor.

She identified Davies as being responsible for the sex attack.

He claimed he accidentally bumped into her, after which she slapped him across the face.

Davies said he had done nothing indecent but Judge Philip Richards said he saw no reason to form the opinion that the woman had lied.

Report by AJ SICLUNA

Council row over state of town's toilets

A ROW broke out at the last meeting of Bridgend Town Council over the alleged state of public toilets in the town.

Coun Hadyn Morgan told members that he had inspected the toilets at Cheapside one Sunday morning recently.

"The mess in one of the cubicles was disgusting," he said. "There was excrement over the walls. This was about 11am on a Sunday morning and it was beyond a joke."

However, Coun David Unwin said that, in defence of BCBC's cleaners, these toilets were inspected every hour, as were all the toilets in town.

"Whenever I have used these toilets, I have never found them to be in that state. It may have been a one-off," he said.

"The staff who look after the public conveniences do an exemplary job. It's very unfortunate that the councillor has

made these remarks."

However, Coun Morgan stood by his comments: "I reported what I saw on that Sunday morning."

Coun Unwin said that the toilets were opened at 10am on Sundays and inspected hourly, but Coun Morgan said he could assure the council that the mess he saw would have been there long before the toilets were opened.

Coun Unwin said that Coun Morgan was not painting a true picture of the usual situation.

"We do not want it to go out from this meeting that Bridgend is a filthy mess. It is not."

Coun Morgan said that he was not suggesting that "I went to the toilets to have a look and that's what I saw."

The council did not decide to take any further action.

Saturday club puts Rhodri on road to an apprenticeship

WHEN Rhodri George was a year-10 pupil at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, he already knew he wanted a career in engineering, but was keen to get some practical experience.

After speaking to his school-based careers adviser, Rhodri applied to take part in a series of engineering 'Saturday Clubs', to help him gain the experience he wanted.

Held in association with Bridgend-based training company, Control2K, the Ford-Control2K Automotive Saturday Clubs give year-10 pupils in the Cardiff and Vale areas the chance to gain hands-on experience in the electronics and mechanical engineering sectors.

Rhodri said: "My school careers adviser suggested the Saturday Club might be a good chance for me to get



Rhodri George.

some experience in engineering, and helped me with my application forms for the selection process. I was accepted and spent 12 weeks trialling a range of different aspects of engineering and electronics."

"The Saturday Clubs are free of charge and gave me a unique chance of having some real day-to-day experience in the career I'd chosen."

Rhodri then went on to successfully complete his GCSEs in year-11, and began applying for engineering apprenticeships across south Wales.

He said: "I sent out as many applications as I could, and I included my experience and the skills I had gained at the Saturday Club in all my applications."

"In the end, I was offered three places, and I decide to take up an apprenticeship position at the Royal Mint in Llantrisant."

"It's a four-year apprenticeship, and during that time I'll have the opportunity to experience all the different areas of the business, as well as studying at college."

Bridgend allotment holders' complaint over lack of security

ALLOTMENT holders at Great Western Avenue have raised grievances with Bridgend Town Council about security.

Plot holder Phil Rees contacted the council to say that his shed has been broken into, another tenant has had a shed window broken, and the door has been forced on a further shed.

He said that last summer, six or seven sheds were burgled and there was another incident in 2004.

He added that there have now been three separate incidents at the site in the past six years.

Mr Rees said that these issues have been raised with the allotment sub-committee but nothing has been done.

"We are concerned about the ease of access afforded to non-tenants. Security at the gate is non

existent. The majority of tenants expect the same degree of security as other plot holders on other BTC allotment sites."

"We pay a similar rent and sign the same contracts. The council should provide the same level of security at all its sites."

He suggested that a tall palisade-style gate, which could be locked, was needed to deter opportunist intruders.

Coun David Unwin said that there was obviously a problem with security at the site, but there did not seem to be feed-back between the council and the tenants.

"We should get the allotment sub-committee to look at this issue in depth and recommend some action one way or the other."

"It is not buck passing. We must consider this complaint very seriously."

Coun

Maisie

COUNCILLORS TO TALK ABOUT TOWN CENTRE

BRIDGEND town centre manager Rhiannon Kingsley has met members of the town council to give her opinion on the town centre and how it can be improved.

She said that it was important to provide people coming into Bridgend with more than just shopping - cultural and leisure facilities should also be available.

She said that the Recreation Centre scheme to provide a new library and

art gallery was an important factor.

Ms Kingsley stated that there were problems in Bridgend including car parking, a lack of identity, lack of event space and the lack of a "heart" in the town.

She pointed out that car parking costs were critical to the survival of the town and strategies were needed to encourage shoppers and retain them.

Members have asked for a further meeting with her to discuss her ideas in more depth.

Bridgend news in brief

A POTHOLE
in
Herbert Street, caused
by the bad weather, has
now become a crater,
Coun Hadyn Morgan
informed Bridgend
Town Council.

BCBC has promised to repair it, but has a huge backlog of road repairs as a result of the ice and snow.

The council heard that cars are having to drive around the pothole because it is so big.

PAVILION
BRIDGEND
Town Council has deplored
the fact that intentional
damage has been
caused to the new pavilion
at Newbridge
Fields.

Internal walls have been damaged. The council was sent a copy of a letter sent to Bridgend Athletic RFC by BCBC about the incident and Coun David Unwin said he hoped that the club would ensure that this vandalism does not happen again while it is using the pavilion.

RESURFACING
work
at Quarella Road,
Bridgend, has been
authorised and will
start shortly, the town

council has been told.

BCBC also plans to resurface Edward Street and Castle View during the current financial year provided funding is available.

PAY A SHARE
TOWN and community
councils throughout
Bridgend county borough
are being asked by
BCBC to contribute
towards the cost of the
Shoppers' scheme
run in Bridgend, but
which is used by dis-
abled shoppers from
the whole borough.

At the moment, only Bridgend Town Council has contributed towards the cost.

LIBRARY
THE town council has
met Mark Shepherd,
who heads the leisure
section at BCBC, to dis-
cuss proposals for mov-
ing the town library to
a revamped recreation
centre.

There was a general discussion about the proposals but no decisions have been taken yet, as the issue is subject to a further review and to funding becoming available.

Another word for droppings!

R**ECENT let-**
ters to The
GEM on the
subject of animal
droppings have sug-
gested, by its
notable omission,
that the writers
have forgotten that
there is an old, cor-
rect and inoffensive
word for it; dung
(hence dung beetle).

Poo(h) is a childish, exclamatory, nose pinching reaction to a bad smell.

Dung is produced by horse, cow, bear, bison, buffalo, elephant, camel and many other animals.

Not until it is spread on the land as fertilizer should it be described as "manure".

It makes a good fire for human warmth and cooking, when it has a different name; fuel.

AG Head,
Llantwit Major

DO SOMETHING NOW BEFORE SIGNS TAKE OVER THE WORLD..!

AS the warmer weather arrives hedges and meadows spring to life – but the area may be in the clutches of a new invasion – sprouting signs!

GEM reader Elwyn Roberts captured a particularly virulent form of growth in a peaceful country lane not far from Peterston-super-Ely.

He said: "More and more signs have appeared like mushrooms on our beautiful country lanes over recent years – small ones, large ones, brown ones, yellow ones.

"Are they helpful? – well that's open to debate – especially when more prominence

is given to holiday cottages and B & Bs rather than to famous village place names."

Elwyn pointed out that the growth in signs, whether of the 'brown tourist' species or the 'commercial hotel' variety is out of keeping on once idyllic rural roads.

He added: "Many organisations are demanding that councils undertake 'clutter audits' of the road signs in their area – and remove those which are unnecessary, dangerous or simply an eyesore.

"Something needs to be done in this area as soon as possible, before these signs take over the world!"



ABOVE:
A pastoral scene – where the only sign missing is the way to Cardiff.

Civic Fund hits the £7,000 mark

A CHEQUE for £7,000 has been presented to the Porthcawl Civic Fund.

The money was handed over by the fundraising committee and represents the proceeds of the past year of fundraising.

The money was presented to Mayor Rosemary Deere at the last town council meeting.

She thanked everyone who had worked so hard to raise the funds and all those who had supported the fundraising events.

"I wish to give my grateful thanks to everyone involved with the Civic Fund for their dedication and support," she said. "I also want to thank the individuals and organisations who have made donations for their generosity."

Coun Deere has nominated a number of Porthcawl charities to benefit including the RNLI, Coastguard, Cancer Research, Porthcawl Counselling Service and youth organisations.



The £7,000 cheque is handed over.
(Photograph by Keith E Morgan).

'Don't feed pigeons' – COUNCILLOR PLEADS

AN unfortunate incident involving pigeons which occurred while he was a toddler, has left Bridgend town council leader David Unwin with an abiding hatred of the bird.

He told councillors that he had been attacked by them in Trafalgar Square because he had food, and he was fully in sympathy with former London mayor Ken Livingstone who had waged a vendetta against the pigeons at that location.

Coun Unwin said that the best way to get rid of them from Bridgend town centre was for people not to feed them.

"I would plead with this tiny minority not to put food out," he said.

"People are chucking food by the Job Centre in Market Street which encourages them to congregate in that area. They flock there and roost on the roof of the Job Centre and the old Tesco's."

Coun Unwin said that when the council had its demonstration on the gum busting machine, the biggest problem was not cleaning up the grease stains from the pavement, but the pigeon droppings throughout the town.

"It took the machine operator three or four goes to get this up. It is a noxious substance. We have spent all this money on regeneration, but this is being undermined by well-meaning people feeding the pigeons."

"They are scavengers – they will find their own food and do not need to be chucked at them."

He argued that if the town council was going to pay for extra cleaning hours in the town centre, he did not want staff having to spend time cleaning up pigeon mess.

He said that the town council should write to the environmental health department asking them to take action to eradicate this problem.

He added: "I am a member of the RSPB and I love birds – but not pigeons."

Coun Bob Burns said that the Princess of Wales Hospital had brought in a kestrel to deter seagulls from roosting there, and he said that it may be possible for the borough council to undertake a joint operation with the hospital to hire the kestrel to deter the pigeons as well.

The issue will be explored.

Warning over illegal manoeuvre

TRAFFIC exiting Merthyr Mawr Road onto the Bridgend by-pass is turning right illegally, town councillors were told.

Coun Diane Burns said she had seen a number of cars – including three in 10 minutes – making this dangerous manoeuvre

despite warning signs telling them that it is illegal.

"Traffic was very fast and heavy at the time and the move could have caused a nasty accident," she warned.

Traffic is supposed to turn left and then travel up to the Ewenny roundabout before travelling back

down the A48 towards Laleston.

She added that traffic coming from the direction of Merthyr Mawr village and joining the A48 was also not permitted to turn right because of having to go across the heavy flow of traffic, but again motorists are carrying out this manoeuvre.

However, she pointed out that there is no sign there to warn them.

This was confirmed by Coun Bob Burns who said that there was nothing to show motorists that they must turn left.

The town council will take this matter up with the borough council.

Use your vote and have your say on 6 May

Will you be having your say on General Election day? Casting your vote on Thursday 6 May means you will be helping to choose the person who will represent your community in parliament for up to five years.

The UK parliament makes decisions which affect our everyday lives and this is your chance to have a say on who represents you in Westminster. That's why it's vitally important to use your vote.

If you are registered to vote here in Bridgend County Borough you will be in one of two constituencies – Bridgend or Ogmore. There are six candidates standing for each constituency and your vote will help decide which one will be your next MP.

You can visit bridgend.gov.uk for a full list of candidates for the Bridgend and Ogmore constituencies. Their party websites and other information like leaflets will give you more background on each candidate, their party and their policies.

All polling stations will be open on Thursday 6 May from 7am to 10pm so that you can vote whenever is most convenient to you. Your poll card will tell you where your polling station is. Voting is very straightforward but there will be staff at each polling station who will be able to answer your questions or provide you with any special assistance you may need to cast your vote. You can visit a 'virtual polling station' at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk.

If you've chosen to have a postal vote, read the instructions carefully when filling out the form which comes with your ballot paper. When you have filled in both the form and the ballot paper, put them in the envelopes provided, seal them and post them immediately to Bridgend County Borough Council's Electoral Services team. They must be received by Thursday 6 May otherwise they cannot be counted.

If you have chosen a 'proxy vote' because you are unable to get to a polling station on election day you should follow the instructions which come with your form which will allow someone you trust to cast your vote for you.

Please use your vote and have your say on 6 May!



More information

You can get more information about voting by:

- Contacting Bridgend County Borough Council's Electoral Services team on 01656 643116
- Visiting the Electoral Services office in person at Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend.
- Going online at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk



www.bridgend.gov.uk

Gardening talk

SEVERAL members of Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute attended the recent Link social evening in Cefn Cribwr community centre, which included a talk by gardener Terry Watson, and an appearance by Geraint Hopkins, who had a lovely range of songs.

The evening was very enjoyable and the members are already looking forward to the next Link offering.

The next meeting will be on May 12, at the Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig, at 2pm. The speaker will be Mike Clubb, whose topic is 'Bridgend Arsenal'.

Also on the agenda is this year's resolution: "This meeting urges HM Government to introduce clear and mandatory country of origin labelling on all meats, poultry and fish products sold in this country."

Once all Welsh and English WIs have discussed and debated this issue, it will go forward to the annual general meeting in June and lobbied at the Houses of Parliament in anticipation of this resolution becoming law.

The competition will be for an item beginning with the letter 'L' and there will be a sales table. The members of Aberkenfig and District WI welcome new members and visitors to meetings.

Tondu Primary School

THIS term, Mrs Evans' class will be on 'All creatures great and small' where the pupils will learn about the habitats of dinosaurs, giraffes, gorillas and rhinoceros.

For the theme, the class will use 'Dinosaurs love underpants' by Claire Friedman and 'Dinosaur roar' by Paul Strickland. The pupils will design and plan the role play areas of a dinosaur swamp with cave, a jungle area, a dinosaur puppet theatre and a shop.

Mrs Evans believes this helps the children develop speech and language skills while they learn the seven areas of education within the foundation phase.

After half-term, the children will investigate minibeasts, such as bees, butterflies and worms.

Mr Lewis's class will learn about the different types of dinosaurs, how they lived and their environment, also how fossils have been formed. The pupils' role play area will be a dinosaur world, investigating, playing and making their own information books.

Miss Handley's class

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



will investigate healthy eating, and making sandwiches to suit. They will also learn about the River Ogmore from its source, followed by plants and how they grow.

Mrs Tuck's class will be based on living and growing, how the body works and how a balanced diet, exercise and healthy lifestyle help. They will also learn how deforestation of rain forests is affecting their environment.

Miss O'Brien and Miss Watson's classes will be studying the football world cup from the geography aspect, and comparing differences and similarities between the individual countries, such as art, food, religion and languages.

The following children achieved full marks with their submitted homework last term: Mrs Evans' class – Rhys Baker, Tegan Chambers, Jerry Chan, Dylan Evans, Ben Fisher, Dylan Griffiths, Keira Hill, Katelyn Johnson, Connor Jones, Ansha Khurana, Liam Lloyd, Benji Lock, Kieran O'Connor, Tyler Richards, Cleo Tapper, Owain Thomas, Cariad Westlake, Iestyn Williamson.

Mr Lewis's class – Garin Atkinson, Libby Barrett, Siobhan Cundle, Lauren Davies, Dionne Tapper.

Miss Handley's class – Lowri Chambers, Anesha Hopkins.

Mrs Tuck's class – Jack Bailey, Rhianon Haines, Joseph Hien, Alex Smith, Liora Taylor, Cian Thacker, Daniel Thomas.

Miss O'Brien's class – Emerlee Brown, Lauren Mitchell, Josh Peters, Brendon Salliss, Chloe Thomas.

Miss Watson's class – Cerys Baker, Mali Gifford, Kane Hill, Jack Howells, Owen Rees, Abbie Tapper, Charlotte Thomas, Louise Tuck, Leigh Wodecki.

Judges from the Welsh Heritage Award are visiting the school today (Thursday, April 29) to see year-3's work on Aberkenfig Square.

Music double
GARW Valley male choir has arranged a weekend of music in Northampton: Tomorrow (Friday, April 30) they will be singing at the wedding reception of Lynne Appley and Barrie Dean and the members wish them both a long and happy union. Barrie is the son of Dixie Dean, the choir

secretary.

On Saturday, the choir will be performing in a joint charity concert with the Northampton Male Voice Choir in the United Reform Church, Abingdon Road, Northampton, with proceeds to the 'Help for Heroes' Fund.

Gleemen concert

MAESTEG Gleemen male voice choir will be holding their 52nd annual concert in Maesteg Town Hall on Saturday, May 15 at 7pm.

This promises to be a musical extravaganza as not only will the choir be singing a number of well known numbers, but the compère is Mal Pope, well known radio and TV presenter, singer and writer.

Also on the stage will be soprano Gwawr Edwards, who has given polished performances on S4C over the last few months.

She will be performing at Glyndebournie opera festival between April and August. She will appear in the final night concert of the Welsh National Eisteddfod at Ebbw Vale in August.

There will also be two up-and-coming stars performing at the concert.

Both were accomplished competitors in the Bridgend county young singers of the year competition. Megan Eleri Griffith (Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari) won the junior section, Charlotte Skidmore (St Clare's School, Porthcawl) was the senior section winner.

Tickets can be obtained from Maesteg Town Hall or any choir member.

Club tournament

ABERKENFIG boys and girls club is holding a football tournament at Ynysawdr Comprehensive School on Sunday, May 2.

There will be a number of youth teams competing from Bridgend county borough.

Two teams have been invited to take part from Rhondda Cynon Taff and one from Cardiff.

The gates open at 9am and the game will kick off at 10.30am. The entry is £2 per car, which includes a programme and a raffle.

There will be a number of stalls and a bouncy castle.

Road hazard

ARE we waiting for an accident to happen on

the dual carriageway from Sarn services at the roundabout which links it to the A4063 to Bridgend and Maesteg?

New road directional arrows have been painted on the road surface of the dual carriageway for traffic to Bridgend and Cefn Cribwr.

The inner lane is left turn or straight on, the outer lane is right turn to Maesteg, previously the outer lane was straight over to Cefn Cribwr, plus right turn to Maesteg.

This contradicts the existing lane road directional arrows on the A4063 as you approach the roundabout from Maesteg.

These are: inner lane left turn to Sarn services, outer lane straight on for traffic to Bridgend or right turn to Cefn Cribwr.

There have also been large signs located on the roundabout which obstruct driver's views of traffic actually on the roundabout circuit.

Three times I have witnessed near misses on this roundabout in the last week.

Leavers' assembly

MR PAUL BOOTH, headteacher of Ogmere Valley primary school, has decided that the school this year, will be holding a special year-6 leavers' assembly in which the children will review and celebrate their time at the school.

All responsible relatives of the pupils will be invited to this once in a lifetime event.

He will also be organising a Hawaiian-themed barbecue, including a possible karaoke evening for the school leavers, weather permitting. He will inform relatives of the proposed dates nearer the occasion.

Railway enthusiasts

I HAVE been advised that the timetable for the steam engine Oliver Cromwell on May 1 has been revised and the train will now terminate in Cardiff.

The Nunny Castle will be going through Bridgend at 10am approximately en route to Fishguard and will be returning at 6.45pm approximately on Saturday, May 22.

For more information, see www.uksteam.info

Local man escapes prison sentence after Maesteg New Year's Eve 'glassing'

Report by AJ SICLUNA

A MAN who carried out an attack which involved a glass has escaped prison at Cardiff Crown Court.

Christopher Parry, 22, unemployed of Maesteg, admitted a charge of wounding Lee McLeod.

He was sentenced to a community order for two years involving a supervision order for two years and directed to pay the victim £200 compensation.

Recorder David Aubrey QC said Parry had struck out without justification when holding a glass which shattered.

"But I am satisfied you did not deliberately use this glass as a weapon, nor did you thrust it deliberately in his face."

The Recorder said that Parry's addiction to alcohol had been at the root of his problems, but now he had stopped drinking.

Prosecutor David Lloyd said that Mr McLeod had been out celebrating New Year's Eve in Maesteg.

He noticed that Parry was involved in an altercation.

He intervened, Parry struck him in the face. The glass he was holding shattered and cut the left side of his face and ear. The wounds, said Mr Lloyd,

were superficial and completely healed.

Mr McLeod went to hospital but left before being treated. When arrested, Parry accepted that he had swung out wholly unreasonably and had been reckless.

His counsel Kevin Seal said: "He is utterly remorseful. He has never had any problems with Mr McLeod."

"This was not a 'classic' glassing case but an impulsive action."

"He has stopped drinking and has found a new life. The mist of alcohol which enveloped him has lifted."

General Picton plans rejected

THE owner of an old Porthcawl pub is hopeful that his redevelopment scheme for the site will be approved.

Estate agent David Deere of Deere Investments said that he submitted plans to demolish the General Picton in New Road, which has been closed for some time, and replace it with three town houses.

However, the scheme was rejected by Bridgend planners because the Environment Agency said that the building was in an area designated as a flood risk from the sea.

But Mr Deere said that, in that case, all the existing houses in New Road and that part of Porthcawl were at risk, as well as the hundreds of new homes, shops and other premises, being proposed under the Porthcawl Regeneration plan.

The plan includes proposals for developing the former Sandy Bay caravan park and Salt Lake car park.

Mr Deere said that he was now in discussion with the planners with a view to either re-submitting the application.

He said: "I understand that the regeneration strategy also includes plans for increased sea defences along Sandy Bay which will protect the area."

"These defences will not only protect the new houses being proposed but also existing homes in the area, which will be a relief to householders in the town."

"Without those sea defences, the whole area would be blighted."

Lotto prize

A LOTTO prize of £70,288 has yet to be claimed in the county borough of Bridgend, so National Lottery players are being urged to check and double-check their tickets for the chance to claim the prize.

The search is on to find the owner of the winning ticket who matched five numbers and the bonus ball in the Lotto draw on Saturday, April 10, 2010.

The winning Lotto numbers on that date

were 6, 9, 11, 21, 40, 48 and the bonus ball was 27. The lucky ticket-holder has until 5.30pm on Thursday, October 7, 2010 to make their claim.

If no-one comes forward with the winning ticket before the prize claim deadline, then the prize money, plus the interest it has generated, will go to the good causes.

Anyone who believes they have the winning ticket for any of the National Lottery draws within the 180-day deadline, should call the National Lottery Line on 0845 910 0000.

WHO WANTS TO BUILD AND WHERE IN COUNTY BOROUGH?

ABM Trust NHS Trust – land east of Heol Las, Pencoe – programme of works to several trees ((1988) OBC No 12).

Mr G Jenkins – 2 Clos yr Eos, South Cornely – removal of one leaning stem that overhangs property ((1993) OBC No 13).

Mr J Rees – 22 Greenmeadow, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend – reduce height of two oak trees ((1982) OBC No 02).

Mr P Green and Miss K Rees – 28 Graham Avenue, Pen y Fai, Bridgend – rear single storey extension.

Mrs L Reilly – Glenside, 10 Heol ty Draw, Pyle – first floor extension, rear dormer projection and alterations (revision to P/09/754/FUL).

Marleen Gossell – 1 Elizabeth Road, Bridgend – ground floor shower extension to rear of property.

Tudor Properties – 16 Brackla Street Centre, Bridgend – demolition of existing building and construct four units with six car parking spaces.

Mr D Butcher – 19 Parcaw Road, Bridgend – rear conservatory and first floor extension.

Mr N Richardson – Redfern, 12 Glenview, Pen y Fai, Bridgend – concrete block retaining wall, level garden, iron railings to be erected on finish block work.

Mr R Jones – 1 Honeysuckle Way, Brackla, Bridgend – single storey office/study extension to gable elevation.

Mr S Leonard – 1 Cae Derwen, Litchard, Bridgend – change integral garage into dining room and widen drive to accommodate two cars.

Messrs Deere Investments – land next to 7 Pangbourne Close, Porthcawl – regularise changes to consent P/06/1130/FUL.

Mr I and Mrs A Evans – 16 Oaklands Road, Bridgend – extension of roof ridge to accommodate access stairs to attic conversion.

Mr SP Maddern – 52 Neath Road, Maesteg – single storey extensions.

Mr P Lewis – 106 Parc Tyn y Waun, Llangynydd, Maesteg – first floor extension over existing garage/kitchen to provide two additional bedrooms.

Mr D Bevans – land north of Minfrwd Road off B4280, Pencoe – construct four stables for horses, tack room and portable fodder storage.

RPS – Ogmere Forest, Ogmere Vale, Bridgend – screening opinion for proposed coal bed methane.

RPS – land east of Pontyrhyll/Llangeinor, Bridgend – screening opinion for proposed coal

bed methane. Sainsbury's Supermarket Ltd – Sainsbury's Supermarket, The Derwen, Bridgend – regularisation of plant equipment installed on roof in connection with approval P/09/400/FUL.

Mr W Videan – Ironmongers, Church Street, Maesteg – refurbish existing commercial premises and change use of first floor offices into self-contained flat.

Mr S Atkinson – 3 Woodland Avenue, Porthcawl – single storey extension to side and rear of property.

Greenfields Development Ltd – land rear of Darran House, High Street, Heol y Cw, Bridgend – erection of four detached dwellings with garages.

RJ Murray Construction Ltd – land between Crown Road and Crown Rise, Maesteg – two four-bedroom detached properties – affecting footpath 35 Maesteg.

Mr M Khaliq – 9 Jubilee Gardens, Porthcawl – extension to swimming pool to form fitness suite (amendment to P/04/1359/FUL).

Hafod Housing Association – 1 Springfield Close, Bridgend – double storey rear extension with associated internal and external drainage works.

Barratt South Wales – land

at Maendy Farm, Brynceithin, Bridgend – construct 142 amended house types and associated works to outline P/06/556/OUT – affecting footpaths 3, 7, 9 St Brides Minor.

RPS – land east of Cefn Machen Uchaf Farm, Llangeinor, Bridgend – screening opinion for proposed coal bed methane.

Mr Evans – 21 Arosfa Avenue, Porthcawl – storm porch to front elevation.

Mr D Phipps – 34 Oaklands Road, Bridgend – demolish existing garage and construct new detached garage with pitched roof.

Mr C Evans – 47 Heol Groes Faen, Porthcawl – first floor extension with balcony.

Mr Jenkins – 30 Heol Croesty, Pencoe – conservatory to rear elevation.

Mr Colin Morgan – 1A Turberville Street, Maesteg – change roof type to gables and add pitch roof to front/rear elevations – affecting footpath 34 Maesteg.

Mr A Randall – Riversdale House, Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend – form three new openings through side elevation of surgery to connect to new extension and minor alterations for internal access.

Athletic's under-9s keep trophy at home



LEFT:
The victorious
Bridgend Athletic
under-9 squad.

ANOTHER year almost gone and it was time for our home tournament, with five other sides entered, Newport HSOB, Fairwater, Dulais Valley Lions and two local sides Bridgend Sports and Tondy.

It was to be a pool event, with the top two sides in the pool going through to the final and playing for the cup. The Ath entered one squad of 16 players.

GAME 1

In the first game the Ath under-9s took on the local rivals Bridgend Sports. This was destined to be a competitive game, with some players from both sides being in the same school.

The Ath scored the opening try through captain Gwilym John.

In the second half, with the Sports throwing everything at the Ath, they could not break through. The Ath pressed forward and went on to score three further tries, with two from Thomas Anthony and the other from Jamie Marshall.

Final score: Ath 4, Bridgend Sports 0.

GAME 2

The second game was against Tondy, and this

turned out to be a tougher game. With both sides testing each other out, it was Tondy who touched down first. This was short lived as the Ath brought the scores back level, with Thomas Anthony Crossing the line.

Ath then went up another gear and got their second through Daniel O'Sullivan. The second half was a much tighter battle with both sides hitting each other in attack and defence but the game stayed scoreless.

Final score: Ath 2, Tondy 1.

GAME 3

Cardiff side Fairwater were the next opponents and the Bridgend side were up and running by now like a well oiled machine, so much so that Fairwater did not quite know what had hit them, with the Ath scoring four fantastic tries by Kasari Mehta, Connor Fabian, Thomas Anthony and Jack Obbard.

In the second half, the Fairwater players knuckled down and took the game to the Ath and managed to score a try of their own but this turned out to only be a consolation.

The Ath team took their try count to five, with the last coming from Ffion Revil.

Final score: Ath 5, Fairwater 1.

GAME 4

The next pool game was against a side, a little further up the M4, Newport HSOB. The way the competition was shaping, Newport were in with a chance of going through to the final, so they were up for this match, but the Ath were in the same boat.

It was Newport's line that finally cracked in the first half, allowing Connor Fabian to score. In the second half, the defences stayed on top and Connor's try was to be the only one scored in this close encounter.

This win booked the Ath a place in the final. Newport were still in with a chance of making the final, it all depended on how Bridgend Sports fared in their final pool game.

Final score: Ath 1, Newport 0.

GAME 5

This final pool game was against a side from the other end of the M4, Dulais Valley Lions. In all fairness, Dulais had struggled throughout the tournament. They managed to score some lovely tries but were unable to notch up any wins.

Straight from the start, Dulais seemed out of their depth. The Ath were like steam train coming down the track, straight at Dulais and this allowed the Ath players to take a 3-0 lead at half time, with tries coming from Connor Fabian, Gwilym John and Charles Creffield.

The second half was to be no different, with the exception of Dulais scoring a well-deserved consolation try, as they never gave up all game. The Ath did score three further tries and they were by Jack Obbard, Sam Vesey and Charles Creffield.

Final score: Ath 6, Dulais Valley Lions 1.

Ath were top of their pool and through to the cup final against Bridgend Sports.

CUP FINAL

Newport came so close, only to be denied by Bridgend Sports' last pool game win. So it was a local derby final, with Sports out for revenge for their pool stage loss against the Ath.

Ath threw everything at the Sports, hitting them with wave after wave of attacks and notched up three tries, from Teo Fillis and Daniel O'Sullivan scoring two.

(Half time score Ath 3, Sports 0)

In the second half, the Ath started where they had left off, scoring the next try, with Daniel O'Sullivan touching down for his hat-trick in the game.

The Ath then made a few changes, giving all their squad members a run out in the final. This did not make any difference to the Ath structure as they went on to score the next try (again Daniel O'Sullivan).

In the dying minutes of the game, the Sports went in for a well-deserved consolation try.

Final score: Bridgend Ath 6, Bridgend Sports 1.

Ath squad: Gwilym John (captain), Jack Obbard, Ffion Revil, Thomas Anthony, Teo Fillis, Connor, Jamie Marshall, Daniel O'Sullivan, Kasari Mehta, Sam Vesey, Louis King, Daffydd Beach, James Hermolle, Brandyn Fooks, Charles Creffield and Christopher Hart.

Player of the match went to all the squad, for an all-round outstanding performance. Although one player did step up his game, scoring two tries on the day, so an individual player of the match went to Charles Creffield.

Thank you to all teams who played their part in the day's events, making it an enjoyable day of rugby. Thank you to all involved off the pitch too.

PO

COUNCIL SENDS OUT POSTAL VOTE NOTE

THE Vale Council has sent out a 'clarification' note to postal voters in the general election to make sure their votes will count.

The GEM understands that an "ambiguity" in the initial correspondence could lead voters into believing that they do not need to sign a statement which should accompany that vote.

However, any votes without that signed statement will be null and void.

The council issued a statement which said: "It is acknowledged that, within the postal voting papers, there is a statement relating to a required signature which

could lead to some confusion.

"Following consultation with the Electoral Commission, the Acting Returning Officer will, as a means of clarification, be reissuing the postal voting statement for completion and return.

"This amended statement will be delivered by Royal Mail on Wednesday and Thursday this week."

The second delivery will not contain new voting forms, just the statement which requires a signature.

A council spokeswoman added: "Anyone with any queries, should telephone one of the following numbers: 01446-709302, 709303, 709702 or 709747."

'Flying Vet' case is dismissed

A case against 'Flying Vet' Maurice Kirk was dismissed by Vale magistrates yesterday (Wednesday) after no evidence was offered.

Mr Kirk (65) of Tynwydd Road, Barry had been charged with using threatening words or behaviour likely to cause alarm or distress at Caswell Clinic, Bridgend on February 10, and on the same date resisting the police in the execution of their duty.

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a two horse race.

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only challengers
to Labour locally.

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simply can't win here!

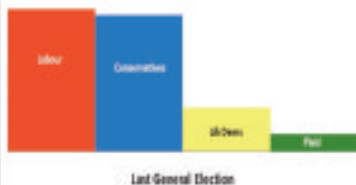
**Welsh
Conservatives**

**VOTE
FOR
CHANGE**



Portrait by Sarah Sharpe on behalf of Alan Cairns, both of 29 High Street, Barry, CF 62 7EB

How people vote in
the Vale of Glamorgan



NEW POLICE SUPER PROUD 'LOCAL BOY'

THE Vale has a new
p o l i c e
Superintendent,
who is now in com-
mand of the station
where he joined
South Wales Police
more than 20 years
ago.

Supt Jay Dave first
walked the beat on the
streets of Barry, Penarth
and Cowbridge back in
1988, where he spent the
first five years of his
policing career as a
bobby on the beat.

He returned to Barry
as a Chief Inspector in
December 2008, and
from the start of this
month has been promot-
ed to temporary superin-
tendent of Central
Division (East) – the for-
mer Vale of Glamorgan
division.

Commenting on his
promotion, Supt Dave
said: "I am thrilled and
honoured to be given this
exciting role.

"I am proud to be a
'local boy' and able to
work with our Divisional
Commander, Chief Supt
Carl Davies and the
whole team to make a
real and positive differ-
ence to the place where I
live and work.

"I have lived in the
Vale for the past 20 years
and I am immensely
proud of what previous
senior officers and col-
leagues have done to
make this one of the



VALE SUPT JAY DAVE.

safest areas to live in and
visit. I now want to do
my utmost to work with
the public to keep mak-
ing things even better.

"I shall be working
closely with colleagues
across central division, as
well as our partners in the
Safer Vale partnership to
build upon the successes
of the past.

"I am passionate about
the service we provide
and I want all of my staff
doing their utmost to
deliver that high level of
service.

"I have worked with
many of the team of staff
we have here for most of
my 21 years service. I am
very proud of what they
do. We are busy and I
know from time to time
we do fail to deliver the
exceptional level of serv-
ice we all want to.

"If anyone feels we

have not lived up to their
high expectations of us, I
would ask them to con-
tact one of my inspectors.
If they are still not satis-
fied, I am more than
happy to deal with the
matter personally.

"Members of the pub-
lic can write to me at
Barry police station, tele-
phone me on 01446
731666 or email me at
jay.dave@south-
wales.pnn.police.uk.

"Another thing I want
to do a lot to improve is
the confidence people
have in us. We have done
really well to keep crime
levels low and to keep
reducing them, but a lot
of people who live, work
and visit the Vale are
unaware of this."

Supt Dave left Barry
in 1993, moving to
Llanishen police station
in Cardiff, where he

spent two years. In 1995,
he returned to the Vale as
a patrol and custody ser-
geant based in Barry and
Penarth.

In 1999, he was pro-
moted to inspector and
transferred to police
headquarters in
Bridgend. It was here
that he led a new project
aimed at encouraging
minority ethnic people to
consider a career with the
police.

The project was called
Dismantling Barriers and
focused on the recruit-
ment, retention and pro-
gression of black and
ethnic minority staff
across South Wales
Police.

Supt Dave is of Asian
origin and was born in
Tanzania in East Africa.
He is a founder member
of the South Wales and
Dyfed Powys Black
Police Association, hav-
ing previously been its
acting chair.

In March 2006, as a
chief inspector, he was
posted to
Communications
Division at South Wales
Police where he was the
deputy divisional com-
mander.

He had responsibility
for all aspects of opera-
tions, including the three
area control rooms and
links with 101.

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BASSETTS BRIDGEND 01656 649009

BASSETTS CARMARTHEN (SALES OUTLET) 01267 238 800

BASSETTS SWANSEA 01792 310900

News from Litchard Primary School

BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

NEARLY £3 million is being spent on linking the junior and infant buildings.

The plans are available at school for parents who would like to see them. There will be some disruption in the short term but the end result will be well worth the effort.

The enabling works are due to start at the end of the summer term and some pre-project work will begin at half term, when the admin team will be relocated to the former infant staff room.

The next phase will involve making a temporary road for the builders to access their compound and to create a new car park and remove the temporary buildings.

The next phase will then hopefully start towards the end of September with a new building going up to link the two existing buildings. This new part of the school will house a new nursery department for 60 pupils, which will be central to the school. There will also be new classrooms and a community room.

The next phase will include enlarging the existing junior hall and creating covered access between different areas with a new roof.

The plan is also to re-vamp the swimming pool to bring it up to date with new heating and pumps and changing facilities etc.

SUMMER FESTIVAL

IN June, we will hold our usual summer festival, and we have quite a programme already developing – our aim is to provide something for all the children.

To enable us to do this, there will be a sponsored fundraising activity based on the theme of World Cup Football. Watch this space.

AEROBIC SUCCESS!

CONGRATULATIONS to Ellie Butcher 6R, who represented Wales in Aerobic Gymnastics in Slovakia during the Easter holidays.

Ellie competed in two categories and was thrilled to win her first international medal – a bronze, and rather an impressive cup, as part of a trio, with two other gymnasts from Aero-Gym Lauren Denscombe and Phoebe Cheung.

All the gymnasts in Aero-Gym are now busy training for the Welsh Open Championships in Cardiff at the end of May.

CONGRATULATIONS

WE would like to congratulate Benji Edwards 5C, on being chosen to represent Wales in boxing.

Benji boxes with Porthcawl Amateur Boxing Club, and is the youngest member of his club to be chosen for the Welsh team. Keep up the good work Benji!!

SUPER SWIMMERS

WELL done to the following girls: Aimee Alexander 5M, Zoë Mountjoy 5C, Jessica Craddock 5C, Laura Johnstone 6H and Taylor-Rae Lewis 4H who all swam brilliantly recently in the Young Olympians competition.

We are very proud of your achievements.

DETECTIVE MITCHELL

CONGRATULATIONS to Mitchell Lewis 4F on graduating as a Mend detective.

This involved a 10-week course learning about nutrition and playing lots of fun games as exercise.

Mitchell received a medal and a certificate and as an extra reward, all the children were treated to a play session in the 'Once upon a time' play area. Well done, Mitchell!

BREAKFAST CLUB

LITCHARD Primary School's breakfast club is now up and running and so far we have had a good response, with about 40 children coming into school early for their breakfast.

The breakfast club is completely free and if any child would like to be included, registration forms can be

obtained from the school office.

KEEP COLLECTING!

JUST a reminder that we are still collecting the vouchers for schools from Tesco and Sainsbury's along with Nestle Box Tops.

Thank you for the vouchers already sent into school but please keep collecting! Collection boxes are located in the school library and vouchers can be sent into school at any time.

NURSERY

Toothbrush scheme is up and running in nursery and reception; all children had an enjoyable time learning about healthy teeth via stories and puppets.

They also had a free toothbrush kit to take home. They brush their teeth after dinner, keeping their brushes in brightly coloured buses.

FOREST SCHOOL

THE first attempt at lighting the fire was very successful.

We toasted marshmallows, which everybody tasted and thoroughly enjoyed.

ROCKWOOL

THE children recently visited Rockwool and had a fabulous morning; the weather was fine and the children's behaviour was commented on by the leader.

We had great fun learning about the outdoors, especially being a mole, being blindfolded and following a rope with their hands. A big thank you to the parents who came on the trip – it is much appreciated.

YEAR-1

WELL done to Lauren Webster for playing the piano in assembly.

SUPER SWIMMER

CONGRATULATIONS to Nadine Johnstone from Miss Miller's class, who has passed her Stage 3 National Plan Award.

GREEN FINGERS

THE children of year- and 2 have been developing a garden outside their classrooms – thank you for all your support with the changes to our yard rules.

We would be very grateful to anybody wishing to donate any gardening equipment or cuttings.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

ANY parental contributions for the school website eg gardening tips, local information, fundraising ideas, recipes etc, please place in an envelope marked 'School Website'.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO the following children for their superb achievements:

Year-2 Sports Stars – Olivia Howe, Grace George, Ailish O'Sullivan, Ryan Neagle and William Watkins, Eve Davies, Euan Rees, Liam Kilburn, Kieran Chalmers, Tom Matthews and Ella Jones all took part in the 'Sports Stars' scheme over the Easter holidays.

Eve also had a trophy for 'Super Fantastic Sport star Award'.

Ethan Bromley attended soccer school at Pencoed Comprehensive for three days over the Easter holidays.

SWIMMING CERTIFICATES
CONGRATULATIONS go to the following children on achieving their swimming certificates:

Imogen Lewis – Stage 1 Award; Dafydd Rees – Stage 2 Award; William Watkins – 50m Front crawl and 50m Backstroke.

PIANO

DAFYDD REES gained Chester's Certificate Part 1 on the piano.

RUGBY

WELL done to Ryan Neagle, Cerys Thomas, William Watkins, for playing in a mini rugby tournament at Tondur on April 11.

Evan Thomas and Kieran Chalmers represented Tondur RFC in a festival last weekend and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Euan Rees represented Bridgend Athletic in the Hornets RFC 2010 mini rugby festival, where they made it to the finals!

Our Miss Bridgend works up a sweat!



REBECCA HEARNE.

WITH just two months to go until the final of Miss Wales 2010, Bridgend's representative is in strict training.

Rebecca Hearne, a 23-year-old law student from Porthcawl, has been given her own personal trainer from Laguna Health and Spa in Cardiff to get her into shape for the Miss Wales final on June 26 in St David's Hall.

Rebecca, who plans to qualify as a solicitor specialising in professional sport, said: "My trainer Alex has been creating tailored exercise routines for when I'm at the gym, and ones to continue when I'm at home. I am concentrating on toning up my arms so they look great in my evening gown."

Whoever wins the Miss Wales title will be competing in the Miss World Final in Vietnam this November against 119 other contestants. The girls have to look their best if they are going to compete against Venezuela and India, who have won the title five times each.

Illegal party over before it began!



PCSOs Christian Freeth (right) and Donovan Smith with some of the seized alcohol from Newbridge Fields.

NEIGHBOURHOOD Police moved swiftly to stop an illegal party planned for Newbridge Fields.

A spokesman reported that officers were alerted to details posted on the social networking website Facebook, giving the location and time of the 'party'.

"A local police officer was able to call on the youth who had posted the blog and advised him of the implications of what he had done, requesting that the youth retract the blog, which had been posted out to more than 1,000 people."

A revised statement was added, stat-

ing that the party had been cancelled and the area would be heavily patrolled by the police.

PCSO Chris Freeth said: "Throughout the day and into the evening, youngsters began to gather in the area and they were spoken to by NPT officers, advised the party would not be taking place and that anyone causing a disturbance or drinking alcohol will be dealt with appropriately."

PCSO Freeth added: "Due to the actions taken by the NPT, the numbers expected did not materialise and anyone who did turn up was spoken to and advised to move on. A large quantity of alcohol was seized and no disturbances were recorded linked to this event."

COLWINSTON PUPILS WIN PRIZE AT RHS SHOW



THE children of year-4 at St David's CW Primary School in Colwinston recently entered the annual schools wheelbarrow competition run by the Royal Horticultural Society in conjunction with the Legal and General.

More than 60 stunning wheelbarrows were exhibited in Bute Park, Cardiff on the weekend of April 16-18. The competition was open to all

schools in Cardiff, Caerphilly borough and the Vale of Glamorgan councils.

To enter, competitors had to decorate a wheelbarrow on any chosen theme. Year-4 pupil Callum Hill designed the Treasure Chest themed wheelbarrow, pictured, while fellow classmates contributed with the planting and decoration.

School caretaker, Mr Rob Thomas, made a replica treasure chest which Cardiff on the weekend of April 16-18. The competition was open to all school entrance.

Siân the judge helps to pick out top apprentices

RIGHT: Siân Noke has moved on from apprentice to foreman, and is now to a judge of apprentices in a national competition.



A SITE foreman from Lewistown has turned star spotter to identify the construction industry's stars of the future at a national competition.

Siân Noke, who works for Cardiff-based affordable housing developer Lovell, helped to judge the competition to find the best apprentices in Wales, organised by ConstructionSkills.

The event, held at Bridgend College, saw more than 80 apprentices studying construction trades such as carpentry, bricklaying and plastering, competing against each other in a series of practical challenges.

Having already acted as a judge in a regional heat of the competition, Siân (28) was asked to reprise her role for the national final, where she assessed entries submitted by carpentry and joinery apprentices. In addition, Lovell donated £100 to ConstructionSkills to help stage the event – the second year in a row that the company has lent its support to the competition.

Siân began her career with Lovell as an apprentice carpenter before being promoted to the position of site foreman in 2009. A former winner of the Lovell National Apprentice of the Year competition, Siân is also an ambassador for ConstructionSkills, a role which sees her visiting schools and colleges across Wales to talk to students about her career.

For the carpentry section of the competition, apprentices were given half an hour to study a technical drawing and were then tasked with bringing the design to life using a variety of practical carpentry skills. Their creations were then marked by Siân and her fellow judges.

"I've really enjoyed my role as a judge on the competition and it was great to see so many apprentices producing work of such a high standard," says Siân.

"I think the fact that I've recently been an apprentice myself was important as it meant that the competitors respected the advice and feedback I gave them."

A GREAT WELCOME BACK HOME FOR PORTHCAWL'S MARATHON HEROES



The team are welcomed home by the Mayor.



ABOVE: 'We did it!' Darren Powell, Sean Whare and Mike Hynda.

PHOTOGRAPHS by PETER MILLS

THREE Porthcawl men have run from north to south Wales – in a sponsored run to raise funds for 'Help for Heroes'.

Starting on Saturday, April 17, the three runners, Darren Powell, Sean Whare and Mike Hynda (with support driver Paul Howells), covered the equivalent of eight marathons in eight days by running the length of Wales from Llandudno to Porthcawl.

In completing this epic venture, they covered a total of 210 miles, including an extra 18 miles diversion to climb the three peaks of Snowdon, the peak of Cader Idris – and Pen-y-Fan in the Brecon Beacons.

The three runners arrived home at Newton Green, Porthcawl, at 2.30 pm on Saturday, April 24, to be greeted by a large crowd of cheering supporters.

They were officially welcomed home by the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Rosemary Deere and her consort, Coun David Deere.

Following the return of the runners, a family fun afternoon was arranged on the Green with various attractions including a brass band.

A reception was organised for the evening to celebrate the successful run.



Darren Powell receiving an extra special welcome home from his wife Sara and children.



Schoolchildren learn about road safety as speeding is curbed by Operation Cherub

THE roads through the Ogmore Valley should be safer this summer, after a successful policing operation which was run by the Ogmore Valley Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Operation Cherub set out to address and tackle the issues of motorists who drive too fast throughout the Ogmore Valley and to raise the subject of road safety awareness with local young people and other members of the community.

The operation has been run throughout the past month by the local neighbourhood policing team, following reports received from residents and councillors during PACT meetings and surgeries and community council meetings.

Local residents' greatest concern was the safety of pedestrians and other road users in the Ogmore Valley where many motorists were travelling in excess of the 30mph speed limit.

During the March PACT meeting in Blackmill, speeding and road safety awareness was agreed as a PACT



ABOVE: Year-6 pupils from Ogmore Vale Primary School take part in Operation Cherub with their local neighbourhood policing team – PCSO Gareth Evans (front) and (left to right) PCSO Richard Thomas, PC Gemma Tibbott and PCSO Gemma Matthews.

priority. In response to this, PCSO Gemma Matthews, the local officer for the Blackmill ward, analysed the issues of speeding throughout the valley and devised Operation Cherub.

PCSO Matthews said: "Over a two-day period the police team visited both Nantymoel and Ogmore Vale Primary Schools.

Pupils from years 5-6 took part in an exercise using the hand-held speed camera to record vehicles travelling in excess of 30 mph along Aber Road in Nantymoel and Bethania Row in Ogmore Vale.

"They spoke to speeding motorists and delivered a powerful message

to all who were stopped. "The message read out by the school pupils was hard hitting – and we believe it is an effective approach to highlighting to motorists the dangers of speeding."

Neighbourhood beat manager PC Gemma Tibbott of the Ogmore Valley neighbourhood policing team added: "Operation Cherub was a great success, which led to the team using the speed camera throughout the Ogmore Valley.

"A total of 430 motor vehicles were recorded and 15 motorists were issued with written warnings for speeding.

"The Ogmore Valley NPT worked closely with

the automatic number plate recognition team, which in turn led to the arrest and charge of a male motorist for the offence of driving while disqualified.

"Several vehicles were seized from motorists for driving without insurance.

"We have had such a positive response from the local community that the team will continue to hold speeding operations in the future to tackle the issues of speeding within the valley.

"We will share our information and figures with the local council and work in partnership to continue to tackle the matter," PC Tibbott added.

Digging the dirt (in the best possible taste) at Pyle!

LOCAL residents in Pyle have sharpened their spades, washed off their wellies, and started digging on a resurrected allotment site off Beach Road.

This time last year, the site was severely overgrown and filled with decades of waste – chemical containers, mattresses, computers... even a whole spa bath. Valleys to Coast Housing called on the help of "Tidy Towns" – a partnership between Keep Wales Tidy and BCBC street scene.

The scale of the problem became clear as they moved through the site, removing around 1,000 tonnes of rubbish and fly-tipped material. And, Tidy Towns didn't just send it to landfill – the green waste was shredded and all the rubbish separated into plastics, metal and wood for re-cycling.

Local residents had already formed an allotment group by the time the site was cleared, and hand-picked broken bottles, plastic and metal in their free time.

The project was almost sunk when soil testing revealed contamination with heavy metals and fuel oils. Years of dumping had taken their toll.



ABOVE: Pyle residents have new allotments on Beach Road, transforming what had been an overgrown area.

The decision was taken to import tonnes of topsoil to allow the allotments to go ahead – the alternative was to watch the area slip back into a dumping ground.

The new allotment holders were lined up ready with their seeds and spades as soon as the last load of soil was tipped, and green shoots are already coming up.

Rachel Morton, of V2C Community Regeneration said: "The locals were pushing us to finish in time for this growing season, and it was their enthusiasm which kept us

going. They didn't sit back waiting for things to be done – they got out themselves and cleared and worked the site."

An opening ceremony was held on the evening of April 22, which was well attended by all the groups involved in the work of bringing the allotments back into use.

Mrs Gillian Grabham, the first resident to put her name on the list for an allotment, agreed to turn the initial ceremonial forkful of soil.

Councillors Clive James, Allan Jones and Megan Inglesant came

along to offer their support. Mr James said: "A huge amount of work has been done for the community, and an excellent facility now exists for the use of residents".

Members of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners distributed 'goody bags' of useful literature to the new gardeners, and free seeds were available to all. (Donated by V2C.)

Brigden County Allotment Association will now take over the management of the site, the 11th in the association.

'Majority of residents are satisfied with our services' – says council

INDEPENDENT research indicates that the majority of Vale residents are satisfied with the service provided by the Vale Council, a spokeswoman reported this week.

She said that 1,000 residents were interviewed face-to-face in their homes by market research company CelloMR UK, last November and December.

"The residents were randomly sampled and quotas were used to ensure that the mix of respondents was representative of the Vale's population."

The council commissions an independent

public opinion survey every two years to find out residents' opinion of its services. The results help inform service planning and, in particular, the results help council departments pinpoint any problem areas.

Coun Gordon Kemp, Leader of the council commented: "The survey findings are extremely positive and it's reassuring to see that the majority of Vale residents are happy with the services we provide."

"The council provides hundreds of services and comes into contact with thousands of customers. Of course, at times there can be problems and it is impossible for any council to please everyone all of the time."

"What we can do is aim to please the majority, and this independent survey clearly demonstrates that the council achieves this aim."

"Our staff deserve to be congratulated on the outcome of the survey," Coun Kemp added.

The survey found that 92 per cent of respondents were satisfied with the overall service provided by the council – compared to 90 per cent two years ago.

The report stated that residents are proud to live in the Vale, with 95 per cent agreeing with this statement – up from 93 per cent two years ago.

There has been a fall in the percentage of respondents saying that the Vale is a safe place to live at 81 per cent, down from 86 per cent two years ago. The survey offered insights such as the 43 per cent of respondents who never use public transport.

Satisfaction with waste management and cleansing overall was 94 per cent (compared with 95 per cent in 2007). Satisfaction with highways is still high at 93 per cent, but down from 97 per cent.

Well known phrase or saying!

MERTHYR MAWR WI NEWS

AT the April meeting, president Margaret Batten welcomed Phil Carradice, the speaker for the evening.

A man of many talents – writer, teacher, historian, broadcaster, Phil gave an interesting talk entitled 'Where did that come from'.

There are many phrases

we use in everyday life without a thought as to where they originate from.

He explained the origin of many phrases such as 'white elephant', 'rule of thumb' and 'to eat humble pie'. The talk was interspersed by a few readings of his own poems. Thanks were given by Alice Coulter.

Members were reminded of forthcoming

events. The half-yearly council meeting will be on April 22, when the speaker will be Ruth Jones and the link meeting will be at Colwinston, with the 'Singing Speaker'.

The next meeting on May 5 at Ewenny Community Hall, will be the resolutions meeting and a bring and buy stall will be held in aid of Light a Candle. FC

Police plea after M4 crash

POLICE have repeated their appeal for witnesses to contact them, following a fatal crash between junctions 34 and 35 on Friday, April 23 at about 10am.

Two vehicles were involved – an articulated lorry and a white Ford Transit van. The lorry driver, Stephen Paul Jones (51) from the Kent area, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Contact the serious collision investigation unit at South Wales Police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

NSPCC branch elects committee

The annual general meeting of Barry Central branch of the NSPCC was held recently.

The committee was "pleased" to have had a very successful year of fund-raising and wish to thank all its supporters.

The committee members voted in for the following year were: chairman – Lesley Hughes, secretary – Rowenna Douglas, treasurer – Jackie Hayman, ticket secretary – Valmai Hunter and press secretary – Hilary Kelly.

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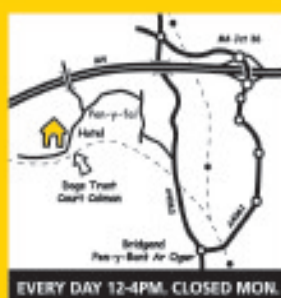
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Cowbridge Male Voice Choir get to the church on time (well, almost!) THE CONCERT THAT (NEARLY) NEVER WAS!

AT precisely 8.30 on the evening of Saturday, April 24, two coaches arrived at St Giles Church, Northampton, to an enthusiastic welcome from those choir members who had elected to drive the long journey and who had arrived several hours earlier.

The ironic part of this story is that the concert had been due to start at 7.30pm, but the coach transporting the main body of the choir from Cowbridge had broken down irretrievably at the junction of the M4 and the A34 (Chieveley) and two other smaller replacement coaches had had to be scrambled at the last minute to replace the main coach.

As seasoned trouper, the choir went immediately on stage to a thunderous welcome from the large audience, who had waited patiently in

this magnificent church for the concert to start.

The audience proved most responsive and received the choir's varied programme with immense enthusiasm and loud applause, which more than made up for the horrendous journey choristers had had to undertake, having left Llantwit Major at 1pm - a journey of seven hours!

Shelley Thomas-Brown (musical director) and Sandra Williams (accompanist) were both clad in spectacular black and silver dresses and both performed outstandingly at the concert, which raised more than £1,500 for the Hope Centre.

The centre provides practical support through their canteen, shower and bathroom facilities, clothes store and needle exchange.

The Big Issue base for Northamptonshire provides 20 clients with the opportunity to earn a legitimate income by selling the Big Issue

magazine across Northamptonshire. It runs workshops and activities to engage people in meaningful activities and to help them to build their self esteem, confidence and a variety of useful skills. Any of their clients can access the programme free of charge.

A fortnight earlier, on April 10, the choir had sung at a prestigious wedding in Llandaff Cathedral of which the highlight was the choir and congregation singing the great Welsh hymn 'Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer' to the thunderous accompaniment of the

cathedral's new organ - which created an unforgettable sound for the happy bride and groom.

The choir's next 'home' concert will be their annual concert in Cowbridge Leisure Centre, sponsored by Redrow Homes Ltd, on Saturday, May 22 at 7pm.

Tickets at £7.50 can be obtained from Sorrento, Barnes Dry Cleaning and the Cowbridge Leisure Centre in Cowbridge, Gwyneth J Morgan, Optometrist, Llantwit Major, or the Charity Shop in Pontyclun.

BOB WHITAKER

Spring blooms!



Llanfair Primary School Gardening Club show off their colourful flowers in bloom. The children "really enjoy the club" which runs after school once a week.

Cowbridge news in brief

COWBRIDGE town councillors were told by Insp Mark Taylor at their last meeting that only one person attended a recent PACT meeting in the town.

Members agreed to urge residents to attend these meetings so that police are fully informed of any issues or problems that are taking place.

VALE of Glamorgan Council has seven teams and two extra inspectors working on potholes throughout the Vale.

Coun Geoff Cox, cabinet member for highways, told the town council that extra inspectors were needed to check the highway network and then the repairs could be authorised.

The severe winter weather has been blamed nationally for a huge increase in potholes. COUNCILLORS raised road safety concerns caused by indiscriminate parking at a number of places in Cowbridge.

These include the disabled bays on High Street and the junction of St Athan Road and Eastgate.

A MARKETING plan to promote Cowbridge Town Plan is being prepared by the town council.

Councillors have vol-

unteered to survey people visiting the town hall on two successive Saturdays when questionnaires were filled in. COWBRIDGE is hoping to cash in on the popularity of the Vale in the wake of the Gavin and Stacey TV comedy.

The chamber of trade is already working on a plan to increase day visitors and those wanting a short break staying in local hotels.

Coun Sue Cox told the town council that she had attended a tourism conference at the Bear Hotel, which had analysed the impact on tourism of the TV programme.

She said that a new website was being created to cater for the increased demand for holidays in the area. COUN Len Taylor has been nominated as Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian.

He will be installed at the annual meeting in May, but there was a fight for the position of deputy mayor, with Coun Andy Banks being elected ahead of Coun J Wilks.

Red Fox quiz night supports Red Cross

A CURRY and quiz night will be held at the Red Fox Inn in Penllyn to raise money for Red Cross services in Wales, during the charity's annual fundraising week on May 6 at 7.30pm.

Linda Amoss, the event coordinator, said: "I am so grateful to the owners of the Red Fox Inn for their support. We rely on the gen-

erosity of people like Richard and George to ensure we can continue to support vulnerable people in times of crisis.

"I appeal to the public to help us to make sure this event is a success. They can be confident that their efforts are helping us to deliver vital services and the evening promises to be great fun."

Within the local area, the Red Cross runs two daycare centres, and works with both primary and secondary schools, teaching first aid and humanitarian education to young people of all ages.

Tickets for the event cost £10 - £4 goes directly to support the Red Cross. A prize will be awarded to the person who wears red in the most original way!



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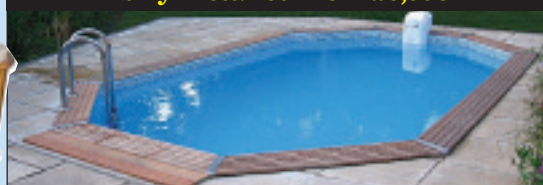


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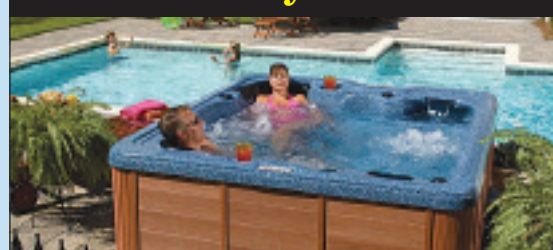
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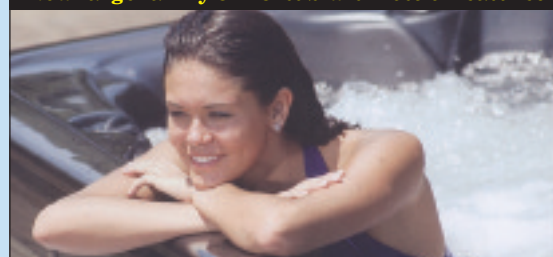
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LIFE LONG LEARNING AWARDS



Vale Council cabinet member for education and lifelong learning Coun Tony Hampton celebrates the success of local students on independent living skills courses organised by the authority's lifelong learning service.

NATURAL HEALTH SHOW CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

UK astrology favourite and star of television's 'Most Haunted', David Wells, is one of the high-profile guests appearing at The Natural Health Show at the Mercure Holland House Hotel and Spar Naturel on Newport Road, Cardiff, from May 8-9.

This year's 30th anniversary show is sure to attract visitors from across the UK keen to enjoy a weekend of "relaxation, pampering, entertainment and enlightenment".

Offering information on natural health, holistic healing and spiritual wellbeing in luxurious

surroundings, the show is the perfect springtime antidote to a long, hard winter.

The event has a star-studded line-up, guaranteed to lift people's spirits:

Patrick Holford – a UK expert in health and nutrition and author of 'Ten Secrets of 100% Healthy People' following a survey of 55,000 individuals.

Donna Eden – who claims to have cured herself of various ailments through 'energy medicine'.

Sandy Newbigging – UKTV's 'mind detoxer' and weight-loss expert, also an author whose concepts and methods have been televised to

people in 30 countries.

Dr David Hamilton – scientist and author will be talking about the positive physical effects of kindness on the human body.

For further information about the Natural Health Show and the speakers, contact Kim Dowdell on 01446 796065, info@vision-forliving.co.uk.

The Mercure Holland House Hotel and Spa is at 29 Newport Road.

TEN FREE WEEKEND PASSES are available to GEM readers. Telephone applications to 01446 796965 or e-mail info@visionforliving.co.uk, quoting GEM 29/4 offer.

Students recognised for 'independent living skills'

SUCCESSSES of students on independent living skills courses organised by the Vale Council's lifelong learning service have been recognised.

Certificates are awarded by the Open College Network for successful completion of classes

ranging from IT to arts and crafts and cookery to self advocacy.

Presenting the certificates, council cabinet member for education and lifelong learning, Coun Tony Hampton (pictured left) said: "I am delighted to have this opportunity of cele-

brating these successes and acknowledging the hard work of both the students and their tutors."

For information about classes for adults with learning difficulties, contact the Open Learning Centre on 01446 736466.

Council's free checks to rectify electrical faults

THE Vale Council's trading standards and housing departments have been conducting free safety checks on residents' personal portable electrical appliances.

By obtaining external funding from the Electrical Safety Council, the teams were able to visit a number of council-owned venues over five days to test, repair and, if necessary, remove items.

The teams visited residents at Longmeadow Court in Cowbridge, Crawshay Court in Llantwit Major, Redlands House in Penarth and Gwenog Court in Barry.

More than 280 items were tested and of these, 30 per cent were deemed to be unsafe. Minor repairs were carried out to a small number of



Left to right: Kate Palmer of the Vale's trading standards department, Leigh Caveney, housing manager, together with residents from Gwenog Court, Barry, who had items tested.

items. Kate Palmer of the Vale's trading standards team said: "This highlights the large number of potentially hazardous electrical items that people continue to use without being aware of the

danger. It is essential to check your electrical items for signs of wear or damage and replace when appropriate. This survey has made the residents of the sheltered housing schemes safer in their homes."

For more information about the project, please contact Kate Palmer on 01446 709105. More information on Trading Standards can be found on our website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

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NEWS FROM BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

'Question Time' with the Vale candidates

BARRY Comprehensive School joined in the election debate by holding a public 'Question Time' with five of the Vale's prospective parliamentary candidates on Tuesday, April 20.

The candidates who took part were Alun Cairns (Conservative), Alana Davies (Labour), Ian Johnson (Plaid Cymru), Kevin Mahoney (UKIP) and Eluned Parrott (Liberal Democrats), and the chairman was Malcolm Phillips (head of history).

The audience enjoyed coffee and cakes before the event began, and after a lively 90 minutes of questions, answers and debate, the audience and candidates had time to meet and chat.

In addition to questions from local residents, the candidates had to field tricky questions from pupils Oliver Batt (17), Caelum Davies (15), Christopher Bravey (18) and Thomas Moffat (17).

David Swallow, the headteacher, commented: "Everyone at Barry Comprehensive is delighted with how well Question Time was received. The event was very well attended and gave the public the chance to hear the candidates' answers to a wide range of questions."

"It was also an excellent opportunity for pupils in the audience to engage with politics and debate with the candidates. We are grateful to everyone who made the event possible, and also for the kind comments received from both the audience and the candidates at the end of the evening."

Pupils' brilliant idea to support Ty Hafan

BARRY Comprehensive School's year-7 pupil Sean Mayor came up with a brilliant idea to support Real Radio's 'Bring A Pound To Work Day For Ty Hafan' on April 15.

Instead of just asking for donations at school, Sean and his team, Michael Margetts, Mitchell Pierce and Amin Ullah, baked a huge selection of fresh cakes to sell to raise cash. The boys set up a stall at break-time and pupils and staff soon cleared every plate, raising more than £150 for Ty Hafan.

Real Radio presenters Wiggy and Quinney were so impressed they called into school on their way to Ty Hafan to speak to the boys.

Wiggy, a former pupil at Barry Comprehensive, invited the boys to visit Real Radio to tour the studios and watch him in action.



Sean, Amin, Michael and Mitchell selling cakes to hungry customers.



Real Radio presenters Wiggy and Quinney called in to congratulate the boys.

Help protect the lawns of the Vale

GARDENERS in the Vale and the surrounding areas are being urged to think twice about digging up their lawns to create areas for parking and hard landscaping.

Lawn mower manufacturer, John Deere has launched the National Gardens Park campaign which highlights the environmental benefits of lawns to communities across the land in a bid to help preserve the grass for future generations.

It is estimated that the combined area of our domestic lawns is larger than most of our national parks. They provide a massive range of environmental and social benefits, but they are under threat from the paving slab and the spade as areas for car parking, caravanning, home extensions and landscaping are created.

David Hart of John Deere explained: "Lawns are an icon of our gardens and we neglect them at our peril. We have between 17 and 20 million domestic lawns, the majority of which are in urban and inner city locations."

"We want to highlight the importance of lawns to gardeners. Many people are not aware that lawns help prevent flash flooding, cool temperatures, absorb carbon dioxide which they convert into oxygen and provide a natural environment for birds, animals and insects."

Lawn lovers can log on and show their support by registering at www.johndeere.co.uk/nationalgardenspark to receive campaign updates and seasonal newsletters.

APRIL - THE BUSIEST MONTH OF THE YEAR?

APRIL for the ladies of Barry WI was rather a busy month. We started off as usual with our first Tuesday of the month afternoon meeting where the ladies met for a cuppa and chat.

This was carried on by our weekly meetings of Keep fit (Wednesday mornings) and sewing circle (Thursday afternoon) which are held throughout the month.

Our monthly evening meeting was held on April 20. This month, we had a guest speaker, Matt Quinn, who gave a talk on dementia and Alzheimer's.

April 22 was the half-yearly meeting of the GFWI which was held in St David's Hall, Cardiff. Some of our ladies attended this meeting by catching the local bus (with their bus passes).

The meeting was very

interesting for the 650 ladies from the various WIs in the area.

The morning was taken up with the business side of the WI and then a speaker.

The afternoon was the presentation of cups and certificates for various competitions during the half year. This was carried on by another speaker Ruth Jones (Gavin and Stacey) and also Jamie Owen.

April 29 will be our annual link meeting for Barry, Cadoxton, Sully and Penarth Peers WIs. The hosts this time is Penarth Peers and their entertainment will be 'The Four Just Men'.

Our next evening meeting will be on May 18 which will be Resolutions night followed by a fish and chip supper and Call my Bluff.

Further details, contact the secretary 01446 410139.

EJC

Skills finals

MATTHEW MCGRANAGHAN, an apprentice with British Airways Maintenance Cardiff who studied at Barry College, has made it to the finals of the World Skills Competition.

The 21-year-old from Llantwit Major will travel to the UK finals of the World Skills Aircraft Maintenance competition

to be held at HMS Sultan near Gosport on May 26. The competition is for technicians training for a career in aircraft maintenance who have been two and seven years' experience.

If Matthew is successful, it will not be the first award he has won this year. In March, he scooped the Aeronautical Engineering Award at Barry College's annual prize giving night in March.

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The Common Law Wife ...and Other Fairytales

There are so many different decisions which need to be made when a relationship ends. The hardest one is no doubt the decision that the relationship is over - but the consequences of this will doubtless touch all aspects of your life.

Marriage isn't for everyone but those who choose not to take the plunge should bear in mind that they need to plan and protect to a much greater degree.

It's all in the planning

Kathryn McTaggart of family solicitors Woolley & Co advises cohabiting couples to enter into a Living Together Agreement. This allows you and your partner to consider what practical steps will need to be taken if the worst happens, at a time when you care about each other and can make clear, balanced decisions. Breaking up is hard enough without the additional confusion about who should live where and battles over the toaster. Living Together Agreements allow separating couples to move on as swiftly and smoothly as possible.

We're not married - am I entitled to anything?

The short answer is, unless you have invested financially or made provision in a Living Together Agreement, generally no. The common law spouse is a myth, regardless of how long you and your partner have lived together.

Normally the most significant asset is the house. The starting point is always to consider whose names are on the deeds to the property. There are some circumstances which may allow you to claim an interest in your former partner's home but this is a

complicated area of law.

If you are buying a home together for the first time, then do not underestimate how important it is to take advice about how the property should be owned. It could prove invaluable and save you a fortune.

What if my partner won't leave our shared property?

If you have not entered into a Living Together Agreement, then much will depend on how the property is owned, or rented. If it is in joint names, then

chances are that you won't be able to force them to go easily in the short term. If your former partner is aggressive, then there are emergency powers to regulate who can live in the home as well as the contact between you.

What if my partner leaves, but stops paying the bills?

If your partner has left and has taken their name off the utility bills, then you will only be able to seek maintenance to help pay these if you were married to each other. The only other maintenance available regardless of marriage is child support which has no relevance to how much your bills are.

What if I die?

Even if you and your partner have lived together for years, if you die without having made a will your property will be more likely to be inherited by your parents or siblings than by your partner, unless there is a court battle.

If you are separating now, and did not enter into a Living Together Agreement at the start of the relationship, there may still be ways to come to an agreement about who gets what, but it's important to make this official in a Separation Agreement.

For help with the legal aspects of divorce and relationship breakdown, call Kathryn McTaggart on

0845 680 2507 (local rate) or email

Kathryn.McTaggart@family-lawfirm.co.uk

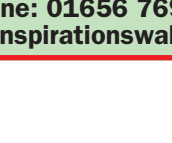
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Cowbridge Fire Station set for 'Open Day' in May!

COWBRIDGE Fire Station is holding an 'Open Day' on Saturday, May 8, from 10am to 4pm.

The station will be giving the public the chance to learn about the many services which it offers, and giving prospective firefighters, interested in joining the new retained duty system, an idea of what is involved.

The station is managed by Simon Brown, who has worked for South Wales Fire and Rescue Service for 18 years, and each year the crews answer around 300 emergency calls.

Emergencies range from grass and forestry fires, road traffic collisions, flooding, and chemical incidents, to building and house fires.

There are currently 16 firefighters working on the retained duty system (RDS), at Cowbridge Fire Station which means that firefighters living and working in the local area will respond to emergency incidents via an alerter.

Some of the firefighters currently working under the retained duty system at Cowbridge include Dai Thomas, a carpenter, Lianne Carke, a student and athlete, Amanda Kinman, a beauty therapist, Owain Lewis, a sales and service manager at a bank in Cowbridge, Paul Hammett, a community psychiatric nurse, Nigel



Simon Brown,
Station Manager

James, a material handler for British Airways, and Charles Storey, a managing director.

The Cowbridge community fire safety officer Paul Hemmings told The GEM that local people should be aware of the many services the station offers.

"We provide people with free home safety checks and alarms. For people who are hard of hearing we can offer an alarm with a flashing light and a vibrating pad under the pillow."

"In domestic terms, one of our greatest worries is people using chip pans which should be replaced by deep fat fryers."

"During a home visit we go through kitchen safety, electrical safety, the dangers of smoking, candles and open fires, and advice in terms of a night time checking routine and escape plans."

"Another thing we stress is the importance of keeping an eye out for elderly or vulnerable neighbours." Paul works with district nurses and local organisations, such as the Alzheimer's group, to identify people who may need particular safety advice.

Another role that Cowbridge Fire Station take on is visiting local schools to advise pupils on the dangers of fire and road safety issues.

The open day is a chance for people to learn more about how it operates, and firefighters are promising some drills to keep people entertained.



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Marie Curie party conquers Mount Sinai in charity trek

RECENTLY, 13 local trekkers left the Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth, to take on Mount Sinai, to raise funds for the hospice.

Leaving at 2am to catch their flight from Heathrow, they were kindly donated a coach by Edwards Coaches.

Once the trekkers arrived in the Sinai Peninsula a few days later, they set off for the summit in the dark, making the four-hour trek by 6am.

The group then continued through the desert for two more days before returning to Cairo for their flight home.

Claire Notman, community fundraiser, who



The team at the summit of Mount Sinai.

also went on the trek, said: "The trek was absolutely fantastic. We saw some amazing sights, met some fantastic people and stayed in wonderful Bedouin camps throughout the trip."

"It was a pleasure to take such a nice group of

people who were so passionate about Marie Curie Cancer Care to the summit."

The 13 participants have so far raised nearly £40,000, which equates to 3.5 days of nursing care in the Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth.

Marie Curie will be scaling the Great Wall of China in September 2011 and is looking for trekkers to take part.

For more information, please contact Claire on 02920 426068 or email claire.notman@mariecurie.org.uk

ANTIQUE BUSINESS MAKES THE TOP 50!

THE husband and wife team behind a Cowbridge antique shop are celebrating after being featured in a national newspaper's '50 best antique shops' in the UK.

In a recent weekend supplement in The Independent, Christine and Philip Havard, who have run Havard & Havard in Eastgate for the past 19 years, were singled out by a panel of industry experts.

Christine told The GEM: "We agreed to

put our name forward quite some time ago, and we had forgotten all about it."

It was a pleasant surprise then, when the e-mail arrived from the newspaper, telling them of their inclusion.

It was an even more pleasant surprise when they saw some of the other 49 featured businesses - with many big city names with big city reputations.

The newspaper commented on their "love of Welsh country furniture" and continued: "They love showing



ABOVE: Christine Havard checks out the other names in the top 50.

visitors to their shop in the heart of Wales how each piece is utterly individual, reflecting the hand of its maker, 100 or 200 years ago."

Christine told The GEM: "It was a lovely surprise, and we have had some really good feedback."

"In fact, a number of locals have popped in to say how pleased they are. In a way, they feel it is an honour that is just as much for Cowbridge as for us."

She added: "It was quite a surprise to see who were Independent readers!"



50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS COWBRIDGE FIRE STATION

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Fun for all the family



OPEN DAY

Saturday, May 8, 10am - 4pm

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Kevin Barry enthused: "Fire station open days are always a great day out for all the family, both fun and informative."

"Cowbridge Fire Station is celebrating its 50th anniversary and the Open Day on Saturday, May 8 is a great opportunity for members of the public to come and see the firefighters working at the station under the new RDS arrangements, which will be in full operation by 2012."

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Former Cowbridge town crier Simon Fowler is now a retained firefighter. Can you spot him in the picture at the top of the page?

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Pontyclun choir in Bonvilston concert

THE Minnesingers, who are based in Pontyclun, were formed seven years ago and now number 18 singers.

They enjoy performing at concerts, weddings, funerals and celebration parties, but are also up to a challenge!

In November, they were invited to perform in the Millennium Centre production of 'Moby Dick'.

Previously, they were invited to France by Mr Peter Andrews, formerly of Llanerch Vineyard, as guests of Chevalier Brevins in Nantes.

They have travelled to Germany to sing in Rudesheim and

Nuremberg. They have also sung at the National Botanic Garden of Wales and the Millennium Centre.

This year, they are committed to helping the Leonard Cheshire Foundation raise £20,000 for improvements to their centre at Radyr.

They are also helping raise funds for research into male breast cancer. They welcome new voices and meet at Hope Chapel, Cerdin Avenue, Pontyclun, on Sundays at 7.30pm.

Meryn Williams, the musical director, has been involved with musical societies since the age of 14.

She studied at the

University of Cardiff music department, was awarded the Morfydd Owen prize for piano in 1987 and was a pupil of Arnold Draper and Martin Jones.

Meryn is continuing her busy career as freelance accompanist and musical director and continues to play for the Royal Academy of Dance examination sessions, as well as accompanying in the Stuart Burrows masterclasses.

Zoar Presbyterian Church, Bonvilston (almost opposite Aubrey Arms) on Friday May 7 at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 (available from Old Village Shop, Bonvilston or on 01446 781309.

AR

Vale 41 Club holds AGM

THE AGM of the Vale of Glamorgan 41 Club was held at the River View restaurant in Cowbridge on April 26.

The new chairman for 2010-2011, Eugene Murphy, congratulated Peter Birmingham on being elected vice-chairman, while thanking last year's chairman Mike Wilcock for his year in office.

The club meets on a monthly basis, at various restaurants in the Vale, and while by the very nature of its name, is for Round Table members who are now over 40 years of age, it continues to welcome new members living in the area.

If you are a former member of Round Table



CONGRATULATIONS!

Above, left to right: vice-chairman Peter Birmingham with chairman Eugene Murphy.

and would like to join us 01446 774502 or by email on wilcock60@aol.com

MIKE WILCOCK

PLEASE KEEP OUR COUNTRYSIDE TIDY!

WE are regular walkers at the Aberthaw lagoon and beach and we are very disappointed to note the amount of rubbish which is being left around the area.

With the availability of kerbside refuse collections and coun-

cil recycling depots in Llantwit Major and Barry, it is hard to believe that people load their car with their rubbish and proceed to dump it in an area of natural beauty!

Please look after what we have. (Name and address supplied)

Porthcawl town clear-up go-ahead

Porthcawl council is due to pay its share of the cost of work done on clearing up land at the rear of Suffolk Place.

The council agreed to pay £2,000, but BCBC has said the

work cost only £3,000, so the town council's contribution would be less than expected.

The council has given the town clerk authority to make the payments when requested.

WELSH POINT-TO-POINT GRAND NATIONAL HELD AT BONVILSTON IS A REAL 'CRACKER'

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

A BUMPER crowd attended the Pentyrch Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Redlands Farm, Bonvilston, last Saturday, and the feature 'Welsh Point-To-Point Grand National' was a cracker with four of the eight starters still in with a chance two fences from the finish.

It was first held in 1983, when it was won by the legendary John Llewellyn on *Mr Moneybags* and he won it again in 1986 on *Team*.

The race has been won by many well-known riders and these include Paul Hamer, who won it a record four times. Sam Waley Cohen was successful on *Down* in 2002, 2003 and 2004 and Tim Jones, Evan Williams, Jamie Jukes, Jonathan Tudor, Rhys Hughes and John Mathias were other winners.

Last year's winner, *Misamon*, ridden by John Mathias, and the locally-trained *Kings Euro*, partnered by Tom David, went off at breakneck speed and looked to have the race between them.

However, five fences from home, *Galtee View* (Joseph Williams) and *Esters Boy* (Mike Byrne) started to get in on the act and by the time the penultimate fence was reached, all four of those mentioned were still in with a chance.

However, it was Joan Williams's 12-year-old *Galtee View* which jumped the last just in front and who went on to win by two lengths from *Kings Euro*, with *Esters Boy* a short head away in third place.

Galtee View, a 12-1 outsider, and his young rider, returned to the unsaddling enclosure to the loudest cheers of the day. Joseph's mother and father both rode winners between-the-flags. Unfortunately, Joseph, who was chalking-up his second winner (his

first had been on *Galtee View* earlier this season) was soon brought back down to earth when in the very next race he took a first fence fall from *Power King*!

Pembrokeshire riders Nathan Deakin and John Mathias both rode doubles.

Nathan (17), who was riding his first ever double, won with *Grey Kid* (novice riders) and *Hocinail* (young horse maiden), and John won with *Baleaeric Star* (confined) and *Its Danny Boy* (restricted). Mathias, who brought his seasonal tally of wins to 25, was full of praise for the organisers "for watering the course and making it safe".

Grey Kid, who was landing a three-timer, made most of the running to win by 12 lengths from *Twilight Dancer*, who was finishing in the runner-up's spot for the seventh time in its last 10 races, and *Hocinail* won by 20 lengths from *Tachbury*.

The French-bred *Hocinail* gave former National Hunt jockey Paul Goldsworthy his first win as an owner/trainer.

Dewi Lewis's *Baleaeric Star* won by three parts of a length from *Micks Prospect* after leading two out and *Its Danny Boy*, owned and trained by David Brace, jumped the last in front to score by five lengths from the favourite *Frenchfurze Lad*.

In a match for the members' race, David Davies's *West Bay*, confidently ridden by David Prichard (18), out-jumped the long-odds-on *Oscarwood* to win by a distance.

The fastest winner of the day was *Isle Of Inishmore* who, under Tom David, came home an eight lengths winner of the aged maiden. Owned by Somerset farmers Jeff and Rachel Frost, and trained locally by Abbi Vaughan, this seven-year-old bay gelding won by eight lengths from *Nosler*.



PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are
available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased
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*Now open in the Wool Barn,
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

CARDIFF CROWN COURT

reports by AJ SICLUNA

Child neglect: mum was drunk

TWO young children had to help their drunken mother home after she had consumed nearly a bottle of wine, Cardiff Crown Court has been told.

The boy and girl had found their mother "really drunk" and were frightened because she kept falling on the way to their house, said prosecutor David Thomas.

The woman had been convicted by Vale magistrates of two charges of child neglect and had been committed to Cardiff Crown Court for sentence.

Mr Thomas said that on January 24, at about 8pm, the police went to the children's home because of concern for them.

Both said their mother had been drinking and both were very distressed, and the police were told that she had been verbally abusive and told them she hated them.

The two were immediately taken to a place of safety and she was arrested.

The children said they had got her home with difficulty and eventually got her to bed. One of them said he could not "put up with any more".

The woman admitted being drunk after drinking white wine, adding that her neglect was "an error of judgement".

She was said to have two previous convictions for child neglect.

Sentence was adjourned until May 12 for a further social services report. She was granted bail.

Recorder Elwen Evans said the view of the social services might have an impact on the approach towards sentencing.

"At the forefront of the mind of the court is the welfare of the children," she said.

Custody, she pointed out, was a possibility.

Pontycymer dealer jailed
A PONTCYMYER drugs dealer has been jailed for four years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Dwain Joyce, 27, admitted 10 charges involving supplying amphetamine, possessing cocaine, and possessing amphetamine with intent to supply.

Recorder Elwen Evans said: "These are, of course, serious offences."

She described amphetamine as "a very nasty drug indeed" and added: "It is accepted that you must receive a very significant term of imprisonment."

He was said to have previous convictions for causing grievous bodily harm, burglary, and possessing drugs with intent to supply.

Prosecutor Richard Evans said that on January 15, drugs squad officers searched the home of Joyce and found a quantity of drugs, a set of scales, cutting agents, and a spoon containing a mixture of cocaine and amphetamine.

Joyce was found at the home of his girlfriend where he had amphetamine on him.

He was arrested and admitted using drugs and supplying them.

Mr Evans said he was released on bail, but a week later he was stopped in a car in King Edward Street, Blaengarw, and had on him cocaine and amphetamine worth £350.

Mr Evans said: "He is a regular, fairly low-level local supplier."

His counsel, Andrew Taylor, said he began drugs dealing when he started taking drugs himself.

He said huge quantities were not involved, his life-style was not extravagant, he supplied only to people he knew, and did not go out corrupting youngsters.

He pointed out that Joyce was not unintelligent and not without ambition.

Case adjourned
A FORMER auxiliary nurse has appeared at Cardiff Crown Court accused of spiking a teenage girl's drink with intent to have sex.

Michael Andresen (37) of Barry, pleaded guilty to a charge of administering a substance with intent to engage in sexual activity with a teenage girl.

He also admitted six further charges involving making indecent photographs of a child, possessing indecent photographs of a child, and possessing extreme pornographic images.

The case was adjourned for a week and Andresen, who had been on bail, was remanded in custody.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 615.

● **£2000:** 278204.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £500 was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 159900; 491074; 369582; 726322; 442407; 573544; 257750; 950431; 653515; 632583; 481495; 146810; 723316; 685186; 192225; 626158; 552523; 299698; 589424; 633340.

● **£5:** 492673; 138774; 218439; 468155; 189475; 218307; 616737; 365001; 452673; 314612; 815103; 779266; 870104; 830112; 534568; 242852; 554532; 171839; 756983; 769986; 138672; 411935; 749160; 103818; 564360; 588195; 167597; 752534; 458087; 377274; 881501; 868970; 241163; 444504; 364111; 550336; 490032; 644627; 282344; 451052; 791564; 652900; 500159; 618819; 644021; 558230; 163847; 477645; 295722; 733621; 177690; 140247; 131353; 477996; 128731; 256644; 139212; 127183; 788027; 273627.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

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For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.



COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN
Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

MAY DAY WALK

THE popular May Day walk organised by the Llanccarfarn Society will take place on Bank Holiday Monday, May 3.

You may either meet at the Village Hall at 10.15am to arrange car sharing, or at St Donat's Church car park at 10.45am.

The walk will commence at 11am and is fairly short, up through the wooded fringes of St Donat's Castle, with splendid sea views, returning after guided visits to the Lifeboat station at noon, then St Donat's Church and Lady Chapel at 12.30pm. The walk will finish at about

1pm.

For the less mobile, the initial walk can be avoided.

Dogs are allowed, but must be on leads at all times.

There will be a printed tour guide available.

JUMBLE SALE

LLANCARFAN Ladies Tuesday Club would like to thank all those who attended the jumble sale on April 24, and especially give their heartfelt thanks to the gentlemen who put out the tables and cleared the surplus goods afterwards.

Also many thanks to all the ladies who helped to raise more than £400 for local charities.

LOCAL ROTARY CLUB BRINGS CLASSICAL STARS TO BARRY

THE ROTARY Club of Barry has attracted two top performers to its classical musical concert to be held on May 6 at the Memorial Hall.

Don Carsley, the club president, told THE GEM: "Last year, we were treated to a very successful appearance by the Brighouse and Raistrick Brass Band, and in an

effort to continue to bring international artists to Barry and the Vale we have invited the mezzo-soprano Annika Kashenz and the pianist Francesco Attesi.

"It should be an unforgettable evening, with music by Schumann, Schubert, Liszt, Mozart, Verdi, Bizet, Chopin, and other favourites."

German mezzo-soprano Miss Kashenz has performed in venues

throughout Europe and America.

Italian pianist Attesi's collaborative work has included performing the European premiere of *Chiavi in Mano* by composer Yehudi Wyner, with the Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra of Prague.

Tickets for the concert at 7.30pm on May 6, start at £10; for ticket enquiries please call 01446 730669.

Alana Davies - Labour Candidate for the Vale of Glamorgan



As a new candidate, people I meet often ask me about my background and my experience.

I trained as a teacher at Barry Training College; I worked as a Lecturer and a Director of Study in Further Education for 28 years, and I now run a retail business. I am a Town and a County Councillor and have been re-elected several times. I am married, and have five daughters.

Why Vote Labour?

It's only the Labour Party that will make sure the economic recovery is safe. We are coming out of recession now – but it's still very fragile. We need to carry on supporting the economy, otherwise we risk returning to a further recession. Whatever promises are made, if we don't get the economy right, nothing can be delivered.

Under Labour, we will provide good-quality jobs. We will increase the minimum wage, and we will protect front-line services here in the Vale of Glamorgan by making sure that Wales has its fair share of funding.

I'm asking you to take another look at Labour. Over the last 13 years we delivered the minimum wage, family tax credit, child trust funds, pensions credit, winter fuel payments, more police on the streets and investment in our schools and hospitals. I know there is more to do, and only Labour can deliver for the Vale of Glamorgan.

Why Vote for Me?

As an ordinary working woman I can relate to people and their concerns. I know what it's like to balance a household budget as well as a business one. I have the experience of raising a family, of following a successful career, and of balancing them both.

I have experience of representing people, of listening to people, of getting things done for them. I want to use that experience to be a voice for the people of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Out and About with The GEM

Valeways walkers will head for historic wells

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VALEWAYS will hold an eight-mile Festival Walk in Cowbridge on Sunday afternoon (May 16).

It passes the historic Llansannor Court and church and continues in a westerly direction to Dr Salmon's Wells', which originally supplied water to the locality in the 14th century.

The route passes Penllyn Castle, an imposing home sited on a limestone ridge.

The leader will be Paul Cottrell (pictured in the baseball cap on this walk last year).

Booking is essential. Visit www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk for the full programme and online booking.

Phone bookings and enquiries can be made by calling Valeways on 01446 749000 (Monday-Thursdays; 9am-1pm).



Valeways walkers will be passing through historic Llansannor Court.

Vale photographers win club competition

ON Thursday, April 15, the Vale Photographic club competed in a battle hosted by Port Talbot Camera Club at their venue in Port Talbot.

The clubs entered were the Vale, Abertawe, Swansea, Morriston, Merthyr, Gwynfa, Towy Valley, Neath, South Yorkshire Police, Wakefield and Tenby.

The judge for the evening was Les Loosemore AWPf ARPS, who gave considered and constructive criticism, and judged with much good humour, which made for a splendid evening.

Port Talbot Camera Club put on a wonderful buffet and made every-

one very welcome.

The scores were very close at the end, but the Vale won with 73 points.

The four Vale entries were as follows: Jan Cawley - Three pots and a flower - scored 20; Ed Cloutman - Dancing girl - scored 19; Phil Ray - Rockefeller Centre - scored 18; Mike Davies - Keep on Truckin' - scored 16.



Keep on truckin' by Mike Davies.



ABOVE: Rockefeller Centre by Phil Ray.



ABOVE: Dancing girl by Ed Cloutman.



RIGHT: Three pots and a flower by Jan Cawley.

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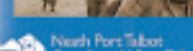
- The Freeman of Gwent
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Out and About with The GEM

Parade of the pooches!

LOCAL residents and owners of proud pooches are invited to come and join the fun at Victoria Park's second annual charity dog show on May 2.

This year, the event is set to be bigger and better than ever – with more show classes, stalls, raffles and entertainment on offer at the Barry venue, all in aid of the Dog's Trust (which has a rehoming centre in Bridgend), the PDSA and Guide Dogs charities.

From 1-5pm, owners will have the chance to enter their canine companions in a number of categories, including fancy dress, best-looking dog, best puppy, best dog wearing neck-

wear and waggiest tail. There'll also be a fun racing game, 'how fast is your dog?', where owners can pit their faithful, four-legged friends against the clock on a special track.

In addition, there'll be a free bouncy castle, music from DJ Owen and friends, an owl display, face painting and more.

In The Room at the Park, Bernard Brown will be holding an exhibition of his amazing 3D photographs, while in the bowls pavilion there will be cakes, filled rolls and hot and cold drinks on sale.

Park manager Jon Greatrex said: "Come along and join in the fun with your pooch.

"The day offers plenty of things for all the family to do, all in aid of some very deserving pet charities."

Admission to the park is free; however, there is a charge for show competitors of £2 per class and £1 per go at 'how fast is your dog?'.

Owners are reminded to keep their dogs on a lead and to scoop the poop at all times!

For more information, telephone Jon Greatrex on 07809 551465.

Win Oakwood tickets with The GEM...

SET in 80 acres of spectacular Pembrokeshire countryside, Oakwood is one of the UK's leading theme parks.

There's so much to see and do with more than 30 exhilarating rides and amazing experiences to discover – and we've got four pairs of tickets to give away free to readers!

Oakwood's 'big four' provide the ultimate challenge for adrenaline seekers keen to test their mettle against some of the theme park world's most thrilling rides.

Famed as one of the wildest wooden coasters on the planet, **Megafobia** has been voted the best ride in the UK and the third best ride in the world by coaster enthusiasts from the Roller Coaster Club of Great Britain.

Speed delivers fast and furious fun, with an awe-inspiring beyond vertical plunge, and is definitely not for the faint-hearted!

Hydro is the tallest, steepest and wettest ride in Europe.

After climbing more than 30 metres into the air, riders are faced with a near-vertical 88-degree drop into 4.5million litres of water!

Bounce is the UK's original shot 'n' drop ride and the closest thing you'll get to becoming a human bul-

let as you're blasted skywards, reaching speeds of up to 70 kph in less than two seconds, plus there's the added thrill of **Vertigo** – the skydiver-designed extreme flight experience and the closest thing to flying like an eagle.

The ride provides awesome aerial views of the park and surrounding countryside and can accommodate one, two or three riders simultaneously (ride subject to supplementary charge).

For a chance to win a pair of tickets simply answer this simple question:

•What is the name of website at www.oakwoodthe-

A Megaphone;

B Megafobia;

C Megastore?

Send your entries, with name, address and contact telephone number, marked 'Oakwood Competition' to The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL to arrive no later than Friday, May 7.

No correspondence will be entered into and the judge's decision is final.

For more information telephone 01834 861889 or visit our new website at www.oakwoodthemepark.co.uk

Club hosts village fete

DINAS POWYS Football Club will be hosting the village fete and their second football festival on August bank holiday, August 2 at Bryn-y-Don Fields, Dinas Powys. Time 10am - 4pm.

Stall holders are invited to participate at charge of £10 for the day. For more information please contact Jan Cunningham on 02920 512961.

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Salmon & Cod Tartare Fishcake£3.95
Smooth Duck & Orange Pate£4.25

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Fresh Salads from£7.25

Medallions of Welsh pork£10.95
Salmon & Smoked Haddock Pie£8.75
Curry of the Week£8.95

8oz Sirloin Steak£12.95
9oz Bacon Steak£9.25

NEW Children's MENU

Little and Young Diners
All main meals £3.75/£5.25

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'Wild Fig' Ice Creams £3.95

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KENFIG HILL RUGBY ROUND-UP

Firsts make hay in the sunshine

KENFIG HILL Firsts played Nantaffyllon on a rock hard pitch which lent itself to fast open rugby, with which the Mules delighted their supporters.

Nanty tried to keep the ball with their forwards but it wasn't long before Kenfig Hill broke clear and scrum-half Tom Briggs finished off a slick passing move, scoring close to the posts, with outside-half Gareth Lewis converting.

Tom followed up with an even better try minutes later when he dashed through the covering defence from the halfway line, Lewis converted. Some good play from a line out saw centre Nicky Morgan go over for Kenfig Hill.

Morgan turned creator for the next try, sending winger Ian Williams over in the corner. Full-back Marc Fitzgerald got in on the action, finishing off another good passing move by the backs.

This gave a half time score of Kenfig Hill 31 Nantaffyllon 0.

The first quarter of an hour of the second half was a stalemate, with the Nanty forwards keeping the Mules stuck in the corner of their 25. Kenfig Hill centre and captain Rhodri Clark brought the game to life when he burst away from the scrumage and, outpacing the defence, put the ball down between the posts, Lewis converting.

Nanty put the pressure back on and were rewarded with a try from a ruck close to the line by hooker Martin Williams, converted by scrum-half Lloyd O'Connor.

This acted as a spur for Kenfig Hill and they

opened up the game, with Fitzgerald showing skill to beat the opposing defence for his second try, Lewis converting.

Back row forward Gareth Harvey then side-stepped his way over for a superb individual try, converted by Lewis. Fitzgerald completed the scoring with another fine effort to score his third try of the afternoon, Lewis converting.

This gave a final score of Kenfig Hill 59 Nantaffyllon 7.

Tom Briggs was named by the referee as man of the match, with Gareth Harvey winning the meal for two at the Prince of Wales Kenfig. Marc Fitzgerald showed some fine attacking skills at full-back, and the centre partnership of Nicky Morgan and Rhodri Clark were superb in defence.

Kenfig Hill Seconds v Aberavon Quins
Kenfig Hill Seconds gave a good all round away performance defeating the Quins 25-22.

Tries were scored by Rhys Stanton, Lewis Morgan, Alun Brace and Keiron Llewellyn, Matthew Tossell putting over a conversion and a penalty.

Minis v Taibach
Following on from an impressive win last week in Pontyclun, Kenfig Hill under-8s completed the double over visitors Taibach with a determined eight-four victory.

Scoring a brace of tries each were try-machines Jack Rundle and Ben Evans. Four other players recorded scores during excellent performances, with one try each for Dylan Pearson, Harry Cooper,

Tom Watkins and Rhys Perry.

Making his on-field coaching debut was Mark Tozer, who guided his young team superbly.

The next game saw the Mules under-7s held to a draw by their valiant young visitors from Taibach. Captained in each half by George Buckley, and then for the first time by Callum Hill, an exciting but tense encounter ended at six tries a-piece.

Oliver Pinches led the scoring for Kenfig Hill with a pair, accompanied by one each for Thomas Llewellyn, George Buckley, Dafydd Jones and Alex Underhill. Still only under-6s, there was some lovely play from Joshua Urch, Thomas Knapp and Elis Bentley.

Under-8s v Brynecethin
Every one of the under-8s played impressively in both attack and defence, Cameron Trehar was unlucky not to collect a hat-trick, enjoying undoubtedly his finest game for some time.

Harry Cooper's touch-line running was impressive, matched only by his bravery after a nasty fall while running flat-out.

Dylan Pearson, Connor John, Liam Evans and Tom Watkins ran themselves into the ground, making any forward movement incredibly difficult for the home side.

An indication of an exceptional team performance is the fact there were six try scorers. Captain Ben Evans was untouchable, collecting four dazzling tries. There were also fantastic individual tries for Oliver Roberts and Connor Hill, plus multi-player passing movements leading to lovely scores for Rhys



ABOVE: Rhodri Clark on the way to his try against Nantaffyllon. (Photographs by PETER GILLING)

Perry, Jack Rundle and Cameron Trehar.

Young Elis Bentley carried and off-loaded superbly on a few occasions, as did the more experienced (seven-year-old!) Conor Jenkins.

Under-7s v Brynecethin
Max Griffiths, playing in only his third game, didn't stop chasing Brynecethin's ball carrier and collected one fabulous tag right under the nose of the Mules supporters.

Referee Underhill was nowhere near the action (again!) but knew the tag had been made by the crowd's reaction.

Thomas Llewellyn, Ewan Orchard, Ewan Davis, Callum Hill and Dafydd Jones were exceptional in harassing the opposition, and each took their turn to make ground when in possession. It was the hard work and skilful running of these boys that freed space for the Mules try-scorers.

Collecting a hat-trick with effortless and graceful running that he obviously hasn't inherited from his father Phil, was captain Jack Davies. Matching his skipper with his own hat-trick was Alex Underhill, including one with a stop-go move that left the chasing defender trailing in a foot race to the corner.

Lightning Oliver Pinches added one with Mark Underhill doing the same in a game filled with lovely running and handling moves. George Buckley collected a neat score, finishing off his scheduled season with a try in each of the last three matches.

All of Kenfig Hill's coaching team are proud of the under-8s and under-7s this season.

Congratulations to Josh Davies and Danny Pearcey of Kenfig Hill under-11s who have been selected to play for West Wales against East Wales at Eugene Cross Park, Ebbw Vale yesterday (Wednesday, April 28).

First team make Swalec plate final

THIS was a magnificent display by the Mules in the semi-final of the SWALEC Plate.

Llantwit Fardre were the hardest division two side Kenfig Hill have met and had defeated them in the league.

Kenfig took the lead with a Nicky Giles penalty, and Giles narrowly missed with a second penalty kick minutes later. This was the only score of the first half, with Fardre playing a game of eight-man rugby which the Mules easily contained.

Llantwit Fardre started the second half with their forwards trying to pressurise the Mules, but the game burst into life when Kenfig Hill number eight Thomas Maund picked the ball up in his own 25 and sprinted through the Fardre defence to score near



Gareth Lewis makes a half-break.



Marc Fitzgerald makes a break.

the posts, Giles converting.

Fardre then let the ball out to the backs and a movement which crossed the field from Left to right and then back led to substitute Sion Cooper going over in the corner.

Kenfig Hill replied in the best possible fashion by going straight on the offensive, with Giles dropping a goal. Fardre then gave away a penalty which Giles put over.

Fardre went back to their forward game plan and a melee close to the line saw Ben Lee go over for a try, converted by Matthew Howard.

Fardre tried to put in a big effort to finish the game but the Mules defence easily coped and winger Steven Shalders caused havoc with the Fardre defence with his speed in chasing clear-

ance kicks, one of which caused the Fardre defence to concede a penalty, which Giles converted.

Kenfig substitute Tom Briggs crossed for a try after a kick and chase, but the referee did not give it. The game finished with Kenfig Hill on the attack looking to add to the score.

Final score: Kenfig Hill 19 Llantwit Fardre 12.

For Kenfig Hill this was a tremendous team performance, with Scott Waller giving a man of the match display, closely followed by Matthew Bater. The Kenfig Hill supporters must also be praised for their vocal support of the team throughout the game.

GO'S

Council staff urged to take a break and walk

BRIDGEND County Borough Council (CBC) has been running a series of free lunchtime walks for its staff members in support of this week's annual Walk to Work Week (April 26-30) which aims to encourage employees across the UK to walk more as part of their commute and working day.

The council's chief executive, Jo Farrar, and Leader, Coun Mel Nott, took part in the first short lunchtime walk across Newbridge Fields.

Coun Mel Nott said: "The walk was a good opportunity to get out into the fresh air for half an hour, to chat to colleagues and enjoy the scenery. The walks have



ABOVE (left to right): Sarah Harris, Peter Mannion, Jade Worthington, Council leader Coun Mel Nott, chief executive Jo Farrar, Ian Hibble, Lynette Daniel, Terri Davies and Alison Gwyther.

been arranged as part of the Bridgend Healthworks partnership, and the council is supporting it as part of its commitment to promoting healthy living among its staff members."

Over the next few weeks, employees will

have the chance to take part in led short walks across Newbridge Fields and Newcastle Hill in Bridgend, and to try out Nordic walking, which is walking with poles to increase the calories burnt and to strengthen the upper body.

PORTHCAWL TOWN COUNCIL NEWS IN BRIEF

PORTHCAWL Town council has agreed to spend £375 on 2,000 bedding plants for Nottage Roundabout.

The flowers will be two different coloured marigolds and will be planted by the council's own handyman from the week commencing May 24.

They are being supplied by the B-leaf department of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

PORTHCAWL Town Council is to pay up to £2,000 to BCBC under the Tidy Towns Initiative for work to be done to upgrade public benches in the town, ready for the holiday season.

Looking at the Vale's 'Most beautiful skies for 100 years'

ONE good thing to emerge from the recent shut down of air space above the Vale - the most beautiful skies in a hundred years.

The following poem that I wrote about the phenomenon seems, to me, to sum it up:

In just six days the garden trees have blossomed into life. Now jays and blackbirds, sparrows and bright starlings squabble and then dart amongst the foliage.

Above my head the sky is blue. And empty. No clouds, no tell-tale vapour trails like feather-fingers in the wind. This must have been the way it

looked a hundred years ago, before the aeroplane, before the bite of progress. The sky that Masefield, Houseman, Hardy knew.

My neighbour blusters and laments his latest business trip, his duty free, his five star pampering. I sympathise and nod but secretly delight in skies so deep and so untroubled - like they'll never be again.

The garden birds don't notice - more important things to do. **Phil Carradice, St Athan**

Bridgend's battle of the bands is a hit

IT was 'Ladies Love A Super Hero' from Rhondda Cynon Taff who beat eight young bands from all over south Wales to win The Gathering's Battle of the Bands final last Saturday (April 24).

Held in Bridgend Recreation Centre, the runners up were 'Innovence' and 'The Decoy' from Gwent. Judged by recognised names in the Welsh music industry, including Bridgend's Jayce Lewis, who has a massive following in Asia, the winners received £500 and two days recording time in the Manic Street Preachers' Cardiff studios.

Each of the runners-up £250, and all three also won a fantastic array of

media and music industry prizes.

In the final were: Offset (Bridgend county borough), The Venue, Innovence, Evolution and Decoy (Gwent) Librarian's Worst Nightmare (Merthyr Tydfil), Stars and Flights (Neath Port Talbot), and Ladies Love A Superhero (Rhondda Cynon Taff).

Andre van Wyk, arts development officer for Bridgend County Borough Council said: "I want to say a massive thank you to all the lovely people who volunteered their time to come down and help on the day! Without the massive team of volunteers it simply would not happen. The bands were great and all the judges were in agreement that the level of talent was truly remarkable."

BRYNCETHIN MINI AND JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

Hard grounds mean a change of game plan for young players

Under-9s

GILFACH GOCH	2
BRYNCETHIN	3

ANOTHER beautiful Sunday saw Bryncethin under-9s make the short trip to Gilfach.

A fast start to the match saw Tobias Hunt show great skill to pick an angle, beat a number of defenders and open the scoring. Gilfach soon levelled though, following some strong running.

The tackles were coming in from both sides, but the deadlock was broken following excellent work by Rhys Davies, who released match captain Daniel Osarigie to score.

Ethan Hopkins was showing great intelligence with his angles of running and was richly rewarded when he scored to make it 3-1 to the visitors.

Not to be outdone, the home team responded with determination to narrow the score before half-time.

The second half was an intense encounter but both teams were unable to add to the score. Strong running by Jack Thomas and determined defence from Josh Napper, Aaron Thomas and Finlay Mullens completed a fine performance for the Bryncethin youngsters.

GARW	5
BRYNCETHIN	4

AFTER two first half tries from Daniel Osarigie, Bryncethin held a lead going into the second period, but with the recent warm weather having hardened the ground, Bryncethin lost a couple of their speedsters to injury.

Much to their credit, the Garw were able to take advantage and stretched the Bryncethin defence on numerous occasions and were able to cross for three scores.

Josh Napper responded with a smart team try to level again, but the Garw scored a further two tries to stretch away.

Ethan Hopkins scored a late consolation for Bryncethin, but credit to both teams for an entertaining game in testing conditions.

BRYNCETHIN	5
KENFIG HILL	5

FOLLOWING overnight rain, the conditions were much easier for the youngsters as they hosted Kenfig Hill.

Bryncethin started strongly again and excellent work throughout the team was rewarded when Tobias Hunt muscled over to open the scoring.

This was quickly followed by Ethan Hopkins scoring following a lovely break. Kenfig pushed extremely hard during the first half, but super defence from Bryncethin kept them out until the break.

The second half was an end-to-end affair, with Kenfig striking back quickly with two scores to bring them level.

More powerful play by Bryncethin saw both Ethan Hopkins and Aaron Thomas score for the home team. Kenfig again struck back twice to level.

Aaron Thomas once again gave Bryncethin the lead, but with the very last play of the game, Kenfig deservedly levelled again.

Bryncethin squad: Daniel Osarigie, Aaron Thomas, Finlay Mullens, Ethan Hopkins, Jack Thomas, Tobias Hunt, Rhys Davies, Dylan Evans, Morgan Stevens, Luke Board and Josh Napper.

Under-10s

GARW	19
BRYNCETHIN	19

BRYNCETHIN under-10s travelled to Garw for another tough match.

In what was an excellent game between two evenly matched teams there was plenty of entertainment on show.

Excellent attacking angles created space to allow tries for Dafydd Evans and Emyr Watkins. Plenty of solid defensive work was needed as the Garw matched their visitors.

Good play from both Ryan Morgan and Ryan Lovell, supported by Gethyn Napper, Morgan Tarr and Owen Hart, meant that Bryncethin were always competitive. Also showing up with fine performances were Ryan Blake and Emyr Hunnam.

Man of the match: Iwan Veasey.

GARW	0
BRYNCETHIN	19

THE under-10s travelled back up the Garw midweek for a second game in a week.

Both sides were initially nervous of the hard conditions, but as the time went on it was the Bryncethin team who adapted better.

Tries from Emyr Watkins, Iwan Veasey and Aaron Jones with conversions from Dafydd Evans and Aaron Jones completed the scoring. An excellent defensive

display from Bryncethin was rewarded with a shutout against a skilful Garw team.

LLANTRISANT	0
BRYNCETHIN	36

BRYNCETHIN travelled to Llantrisant where the rain had made the ground slightly softer, which made for a good running game.

A good platform provided from solid forward play gave opportunities for Bryncethin speedsters Emyr Watkins and Emyr Hunnam to carve their way through a tough Llantrisant defence.

Iwan Veasey released Emyr Watkins and Ryan Blake cut through the Llan defence to put Bryncethin well and truly in control. Solid defensive work from Bryncethin, with plenty of solid tackles, allowed Bryncethin to keep a clean sheet for the second consecutive game.

Man of the match: Emyr Hunnam.

Under-11s

GILFACH GOCH	14
BRYNCETHIN	33

OVERALL, Bryncethin played a fast-paced and well-controlled game.

Gilfach had some strong players and managed to keep the score close in the first half. However, Bryncethin tackled well and for the most part managed to neutralise them.

Bryncethin moved the ball well with effective passing and well-timed runs.

Tries came from William Blake (two), Christian Jones, Scott Winter and Liam Morgan, with conversions from William Blake, Callum Lethardy, Liam Morgan and Casey Sonnekus.

Man of the match: Morgan Howells

Squad: Henry Clark (captain), Aaron McIntyre, Adam John, Callum Lethardy, Casey Sonnekus, Christian Jones, Connor Ford, Ieuan Davies, Jacob Walters, Liam Morgan, Morgan Howells, Nicholas Morgan, Scott Winter, Sam Harding and William Blake.

Call goes out to keen local junior triathletes

THE Pencoeed Junior Triathlon and 'Fun2Tri' event for eight-16-year-olds will take place at Pencoeed Pool, Bridgend, on Sunday, May 30.

All entrants get a finisher's medal and goody-bag. Children will swim, bike and run in four Tristar age groups up to age 16.

Distances are suited to the age of the child and medals go to top three male and females in each age group.

To give all children, regardless of experience and fitness levels, the opportunity to have a go, the Fun2Tri novice wave for eight-14-year-olds will not be timed, has shorter distances and an emphasis on having a go.

The event is supported by Bridgend County Borough Council's Active Young Persons Department and is sanc-

tioned by the British Triathlon Association.

It takes place in the pool and on surrounding playing fields - entirely traffic-free.

Junior cycling training sessions are being held at the Llandow racetrack for juniors aged eight (by end of December 2010) to 16 on alternate Wednesday evenings. These are suitable for:

● Novice cyclists who can already ride a bike but would like to build confidence, stamina and cycle handling skills.

● Entrants to the Pencoeed Tri Junior/Fun2Tri who want to practice their distances, transition to running and running off the bike.

● Juniors who are interested in competing in triathlon or cycling events and wish to build fitness, bike handling skills, group riding skills and transition practice.

The session is led by

British Triathlon qualified coaches who are CRB checked. Bikes must be in roadworthy and approved cycle helmets must be worn.

Entry form and further information is available on the club website www.pencoeedtri.org or email em@pencoeedtri.org or pencoeedtri@live.com, or telephone Liz Lewis on 01446 771507. The closing date, May 21 or when the event is full. (Maximum 100 entrants).



BRADLEY DREDGE'S VALE GOLF DATE FOR TENOVUS

WELSH golfing professional Bradley Dredge will run a golf clinic at the Tenovus Corporate Golf Day on May 17 at the Vale Hotel, Golf & Spa Resort.

Bradley said: "I am very much looking forward to Tenovus' Corporate Golf Day at the Vale."

"Cancer affects one in three of us and all money raised from the day will help cancer patients in Wales."

There are a few team places still available, priced at £400 for a four

ball, including snacks and a two course dinner. First prize is practice day tickets to The 2010 Ryder Cup.

Tenovus is the official charity for Ryder Cup Wales. All funds raised as a result of this partnership will go towards running costs for Tenovus Mobile Cancer Support Unit.

For more information on how you can get involved in Tenovus golfing activities email golf@tenovus.org.uk or call Sarah Jordan on 02920 768864.

Is it back to square one for the skateboard park plan?

BRIDGEND planners have threatened to go back to the start of the process for granting consent for a new skateboard park in Porthcawl because of delays in getting an acoustic survey commissioned.

Coun David Newton Williams, who is heading up this project on behalf of Porthcawl Town Council, said that he was extremely frustrated by news that the officer handling the application was now saying he would have to start the process again from scratch and evaluate everything again.

He said: "It was their request that we have an acoustic survey but we had to wait for good weather to get it done."

"To say that they are putting the scheme back to the very start of the planning process is ridiculous. It will cost CBC time and money

to tie up officers looking at the same thing again.

"They should have better things to do than waste their time assessing something they have already looked at."

"This scheme should be going ahead now so that it can be open in the summer. I feel so annoyed with the planning department. They need to resolve this."

Coun John Bunker said that the council should write to planning chief David Davies, asking him to look into this. "They have dealt with this once and are now saying that we must go back to square one."

This was agreed.



Jolly Sailor's Lifeboat boost

ARRAN Hughes Senior Lifeguard and committee member of Porthcawl Lifeguard Association receiving a cheque (above) for £250 from Jerry Nash - Landlord of the Jolly Sailor and

Kelvin Issacs (quiz master).

This will be used to buy much needed life saving equipment and provide training for the Lifeguards of Porthcawl Lifeguard Association.

The Jolly Sailor runs a very popular charity quiz night every Sunday, raising money to support locally-based charities.

Porthcawl take Ath under-10 tournament

PORTHCAWL under-10s entered the Ath tournament for the first time last Sunday, and were lucky enough to have a very successful day.

With rain clouds looming, the Seaweeds kicked off their first game against Dulais Valley Lions, a combined team from the Neath area, who were a big strong side.

This didn't bother the Green and Blacks and Ben Collins sprinted over for Porthcawl's first of the day. Ethan Waters followed and Dan Williams made it three.

Final score: Porthcawl 15 Dulais 0

Porthcawl also entered a development team who won their first game 25-0 against a combined Newport HSOB and Tondur team. The scorers were Callum Morgan, Kurtis Pridmore, Meurn Nelson, Zakk Furness-Jones and Ryan Jones.

Porthcawl's second match was against Newport HSOB. This turned out to be a one-sided affair, with the Seaweeds winning 40-0. The scorers were Joe Stradling (three),

Brandon Cooper (two), Dan Williams, Louis Protheroe and Max Budding.

The development team lost their next match to Bridgend Sports by 5-0. Porthcawl faced the Sports themselves next, and managed to 'balance the books' with a 30-0 win.

The scorers were Brandon Cooper (two), Louis Protheroe (two) and Ben Roach (two).

The development team were up against hosts Bridgend Athletic next, and went one try down but managed to overturn the deficit and claim victory with two from Meurn Nelson.

Tondur were Porthcawl's next opponents. Always a difficult side to play against, they had all the early possession. This didn't last though, and the Green and Blacks soon started scoring, with Brandon Cooper getting a hat-trick and Max Budding claiming his second of the day.

The last pool game pitched Porthcawl development up against Bridgend Ath Yellows. Early exchanges were even but the Seaweeds soon emerged as the more committed and this

was illustrated by tries from Sam Edwards, Meurn Nelson, Connor Harrington-Pittam, Zakk Furness-Jones and Ryan Jones.

The final score was: Porthcawl 25 Ath 10.

The tournament final was contested between Porthcawl and hosts Bridgend Athletic Greens.

Right from the kick-off, the Green and Blacks started with a bang. Brandon Cooper ran in two individual tries, followed by three from Louis Protheroe and two from Joe Stradling.

Rarely this season have Porthcawl reached the heights that they did in this game. Every player gave 100 per cent.

Some of the rugby was textbook, some was individual talent.

To beat a team like Bridgend Athletic by 35-0 speaks volumes for the boys' commitment and desire.

Rest of Porthcawl squad: Connor Grant, Harry Evans, Matthew Roberts, Ben Davies, Joe Beale, Lloyd Mortimer, Morgan Roberts and Joel Williams.

Man of the tournament was Max Budding.

IB



Porthcawl under-10s celebrate their tournament win.

UNDER-9s JUST MISS OUT IN TOURNAMENT



WESTON HORNETS TOURNAMENT

BRIDGEND Athletic under-9s travelled to Brean Sands in Somerset to play in the Weston Hornets mini rugby festival on Sunday.

The weather was good all weekend, with most tourists going home with a sun tan.

In the tournament, Bridgend Athletic had entered two teams, Greens and Yellows. There were two groups of five, with the Greens in Pool A which contained five A teams. The two top teams of each pool went into the Cup Final and the second place teams into the Plate final.

ATHLETIC GREENS

IN the first game, the Greens took on the Hornets and the players were ready for a good day of rugby.

The Ath started strongly, attacking on a number of occasions. The Hornets were tackling well, but something had to give and first half tries for the Ath came from Connor Fabian (2) and Daniel O'Sullivan.

In the second half, the Hornets played a much harder game in attack and defence, limiting the Ath to one more try from Thomas Anthony.

Final score Ath 4, Hornets 0.

The second game was against Ivybridge RFC, and it proved to be a much tougher game, with both sides battering each other's defensive line time and time again. It was the Ath who managed to break through via Jamie Marshall.

In the second half, both sides preventing the other side from making any ground.

With such a good display on how to defend, the final score Ath 1, Ivybridge 0.

Keysham RFC were the Ath's next opponents and again it was a tough first half, with both sides attacking hard and scoring one try each, with the Ath try coming from Thomas Anthony.

In the second half, it was Keysham who scored next, but it was not long before the Ath hit back with a try from Connor Fabian to bring the scores level.

Then, with time coming to an end, Thomas Anthony raced to clinch the win for the Ath.

Final score Ath 3, Keysham 2.

The final pool game was against Sherbourne RFC and the Ath players could see the final, so they went all out and showed no mercy.

The Ath notched up four tries in the first half, with Daniel O'Sullivan, Thomas Anthony, Jack Obbard and Connor Fabian all crossing.

The Ath players did not let up, allowing captain Gwilym John to cross for two tries after an outstanding display in all four games. Teo Fillis also got a well deserved try.

Final score Ath 7, Sherbourne 0.

Ath were top of their pool and through to the final, against the winners of pool B, Redruth.

CUP FINAL

The route to the final had been tough for the Ath players, with the combination of exhausted players and tired legs after playing four hard games.

The Ath coaches knew their players had their work cut out against Redruth, who had played against three B teams in their pool, allowing them an easier route.

Redruth were looking strong and put the pressure on, but the Ath were coping and defending well. On two occasions, Redruth were camped on the Ath try line and did manage two push over tries.

The Ath found a second wind and stepped it up a gear and, all through the half, Redruth did not once get into the Ath's half. The Ath threw everything they had at their opposition but Redruth held strong and managed to keep the Ath out.

Final score Ath 0, Redruth 2.

Redruth were crowned champions and were well deserved winners. Ath were awarded with runner-up medals and credit must go to the Ath players, who in all honesty worked their hearts out.

Green squad: Gwilym John (capt), Jack Obbard, Ffion Revil, Thomas Anthony, Teo Fillis, Connor Fabian, Jamie Marshall, Daniel, O'Sullivan, Kasari Mehta, Sam Veasey and Louis King.

Player of the tournament went to Teo Fillis, for an outstanding, determined and powerful display of rugby throughout the festival.

Well done to all the teams involved.

PO

Success for Bridgend boxers



Left to right: Richie Canning, Levi Jenkins.

THERE has been success recently for Bridgend Boxing Club.

At St Patrick's Hall, Newport, Lee Burgess boxed M Bell (Always ABC). Lee, in his third bout after a long time out, started the fight with some nice boxing behind the jab, as the aggressive Bell pushed the pace, suiting the Bridgend boxer.

Round two saw the work rate dropping from Bell, and Burgess took full advantage, picking up the combinations and work rate. The fight ended with a clear unanimous points decision in favour of Lee.

Then, in the Marriott Hotel, Cardiff, two Bridgend boxers, Levi Jenkins and Richie Canning were on the bill. First was Levi Jenkins having his second boxing fight against Farid Navfe (Highfields ABC). With the fight starting at a fast pace, Jenkins was boxing well behind his jab using the first round to find his opponent's weakness.

The second round saw Jenkins boxing to orders, pushing his opponent onto the back foot and catching him with a vicious right hook, putting him on the canvas.

Jenkins followed up with a fast pace into the third round, forcing another two standing eight counts. The Highfields boxer did well to complete the fight and a well-deserved unanimous decision was awarded to Jenkins.

Last to box from Bridgend ABC was Richie Canning in a thrilling fight which was nominated as bout of the night.

Canning's opponent, Mathew Wells, boxing from the Army, pushed the fight from round one.

Canning was on his back foot for the first and second round, getting caught with a hard left hook and having to take a standing eight count. This motivated Canning to get back into the fight and he pushed forward, taking shots on the gloves and unloading with heavy combinations to the body and head, disheartening his opponent.

With Canning's big body shots working and his opponent showing his pain, a standing eight count was given. Canning was unlucky not to stop Wells before the final bell. A unanimous win decision was awarded to Canning after a hard fight.

Bridgend ABC are holding a dinner show at Cowbridge Leisure Centre on Saturday, May 8, with a four-course meal and full night of boxing.

For information on tickets, contact Mark Canning on 01656 890 144 or David Francis on 01446 790099.

UNDER-12s KEEP THEIR TITLE HOPES ALIVE

AFAN Lido and Porthcawl Athletic under-12s played in difficult conditions in a 'must win' match, which started as a see-saw affair, with both sides penetrating deep into the box due to loose defence from both sides.

Porthcawl had the best chances with five or six easy opportunities going wide of the mark.

Dylan Hockridge took first scalp with a cross from the left wing, the advantage only to be wiped out after some sloppy defensive work.

Minutes later, another unforced error allowed Afan Lido their second of the morning and the Marlins were looking deflated and tired.

In the closing minutes of the first half though, Jorge Crofts finished off a move from deep within his own half to put us back on level terms.

The game was watched by the team sponsors, the Diamond Centre of Wales directors, Kelvin and Sharon James, and the boys wanted to impress.

Scott Hockridge, scoring his first of the season, broke the second-half deadlock with a high bouncing ball towards the goalmouth. The keeper could only turn back to watch the ball go into the net.

Minutes later, Jak Robbins, with a stunning volley of a powerful cross from newcomer Danny Coleman, put the Marlins two goals clear.

The icing on the cake came when Robert Davis poked a cheeky little shot beyond the keeper to finish the game 5 - 3.

The overall performance was nowhere near the standard of play reached throughout the season, but considering the high temperatures and a hard pitch and bobbling surface, both teams coped with the situation well.

Now five points clear of Croeserw, who have two games in hand, Porthcawl can only hope they slip-up against third placed Corus.

JN

Under-12s spark as smoke billows

THIS game against Cefn Cribwr was Bridgend Town under-12s' penultimate game of the season, and it was a mid-table encounter that put on an entertaining spectacle of high quality football.

Volcanic ash nearly put paid to several European football matches recently, but the only event which threatened to derail this game was a local resident who accidentally set fire to his hedge as the boys kicked off.

The Cefn defence may have been distracted by the billowing smoke and the frantic attempts to extinguish the flames, because they allowed Bridgend to take an early lead through captain Matthew John.

The referee wasn't distracted, however, and soon after awarded Bridgend a penalty which Borys Uidenko converted.

Cefn Cribwr never allowed Bridgend to relax, and were rewarded for their persistence with a late goal to make the final score 7-1.

This was one of Bridgend Town's best performances of the season, with Matthew Morgan scoring a hat-trick, Thomas Shepherd collecting two, and Matthew John and Borys Uidenko one each.

TESTING TIME FOR TONDU IN TOURNAMENT

ON a not so pleasant Sunday, Tondy under-10s made their way to Newbridge Fields for the Bridgend Athletic RFC Tournament.

First up for Tondy was Newport High School Old Boys (NHSOB). Tondy showed that they were out to play rugby, with the whole team taking the game to NHSOB. They took the lead early on with a good short range drive from Garryn Thomas (one up for the forwards).

Not to be outdone, the backs showed pace and skill and Josh Evans got the second score.

Garryn Thomas completed his brace just before half time as Tondy continued to put pressure on.

The second half continued with Tondy never really letting NHSOB into the game. Josh Evans completed his brace soon after the restart and the game was rounded off with a good blind side score from the scrum by Ben Merchant.

Tondy 5 NHSOB 0

The next game was against Dulais Valley Lions. Tondy started the game strongly, with the whole team putting in sterling work in attack and then harrying in defence. Some immense tackling from both sides kept the game on a knife edge for the first half, as both teams tried to open the field with back and forward moves.

The half drew to a close with no score.

During the second half, the breakthrough came finally for Tondy as Garryn Thomas was able to bundle himself over the line, with a few helping shoulders from his team mates.

This seemed to bring out the best in Dulais and Tondy were under the cosh for the remainder of the game, but a brilliant defensive team effort saw them weather the storm.

Tondy 1 Dulais Valley Lions 0

Tondy next took the field against the hosts. Tondy tried to take the game to Bridgend Athletic, but where ball was sticking in the first two games, it wouldn't this time. Athletic got the first score and continued to pressurise Tondy who, despite some excellent cover tackles, were unable to stem the flow. The first half ended with a second score for the hosts.

Unfortunately, the second half started badly for Tondy with another try conceded. With great effort, Tondy continued to play and did make good ground on many occasions before the support ran out. Bridgend Athletic took advantage of their momentum and scored a further two tries.

Tondy 0 Bridgend Ath. 5

Porthcawl were Tondy's fourth opponents, and it was another big game, against a very fast and skilful back line. Even so Tondy were again eager to take the game to Porthcawl.

Pressure led to a clearing kick from Porthcawl, seemingly covered by Tondy only for a wicked bounce allowing Porthcawl to reclaim the ball and run in a score.

But for some inspired defence by Ben Merchant (three consecutive tackles) Porthcawl would have scored a second soon after. The score did eventually come as the ball was spread wide after the Tondy cover had been

sucked in.

The second half saw Tondy continuing to battle, gaining ground through backs and forwards, only for luck to desert them as they looked for the breakthrough. Unfortunately for Tondy, Porthcawl were able to get two more scores before the final whistle.

Tondy 0 Porthcawl 4

The final game was against Bridgend Sports. The Tondy youngsters took the field with renewed vigour and showed good skills to put pressure on the Sports. The game was close, but the score eventually came for Tondy as that man Garryn Thomas again crossed the line.

The lead was short lived as a defensive lapse allowed Sports to draw level almost immediately. This stalemate continued until the end of the game with both sides finding extra reserves of energy. Both sides made some good attacks, but always found the defence just too much.

Tondy 1 Bridgend Sports 1

During the competition members of the Tondy squad played in a Baa-Baas side to get some extra game time. The results may not have been the best but they showed some real Baa-Baas team spirit and some very good skills.

Squad: Ben Merchant, Josh Evans, Callum Booton, Ioan Thomas, Shannon Price, Jamie Richards, Ryan Kershaw, Megan Thomas, Flaherty, Morgan David, Taylor Lloyd, Jack Llewellyn, Morgan Owen Evans, Jordan Morgan, Iwan Knight and Eleri Knight.

Tondy under-11s are on top

THE Tondy under-11 squad were on fire at the Bridgend Athletic Tournament, with convincing wins over Newport HSOB and Dulais Valley in their first two pool matches, before meeting strong opposition from Porthcawl in a close match that saw the Waterwheelers come out as 1-0 winners.

Tondy then went on to beat the hosts Bridgend Athletic 2-0 before being held to a draw by Bridgend Sports to finish the pool phase unbeaten, only conceding two tries and scoring 12.

The Tondy youngsters went on to play Porthcawl in the group final decider, and in incredibly competitive match the result after normal time was two tries each. Five minutes of extra time saw no further score between the closely matched teams, but Tondy's vastly superior try count from the pool phase saw them crowned as under-11 section winners of the tournament.

Every player in the Tondy squad played and made a great contribution to the eventual success. Bridgend Athletic organised an excellent event that was enjoyed by all.

The success follows last week's convincing victory over Nantyffyllon in the JJ Williams Trophy.

JK

KP

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Strong performances by local athletes in the Senior Cup Final at Leckwith, Cardiff

Report by PETER MORRIS
Pictures by IAN DIXON

LOCAL pupils and schools will take encouragement from performances at the first track and field fixture of the summer term – the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Schools' Senior Cup Final.

The event, traditionally the season opener, provides an opportunity for pupils in years 11 to 14 to compete in a team competition for their school or college and set a mark which, hopefully, might set them on the road for selection for the Cardiff and the Vale team for the Aviva Welsh Schools' National championships, which, this year, will return to Brecon on July 3.

In dry, sunny conditions, sadly with a headwind for the sprinters and hurdlers, Vale athletes won 15 of the 26 individual events.

Four new Cup bests were set, with three of them representing Vale schools or colleges.

In the girls' competition, Ayla Phillips, this time representing Barry College having moved from Llantwit Comprehensive, won the shot for the third year, with her best put of 10.29 metres, adding 10 centimetres to the previous mark, which she set last year.

A second new best came in the 1,500 metres, with St Cyres year-11 shaving 0.7 of a second off the 5:01.0 timing set in 2001 by Helen Tucker (Llantwit), who has, more recently, made her mark in the world of triathlon.

On the boys' side, the increasingly impressive Curtis Mathews, now in his final year at Barry Comprehensive, claimed wins in the high and long jump competitions and shared second place in the 100 metres. His name will remain in the list of best performances for his 1.86, adding three centimetres to the height cleared by Simon Drane (Llanishen) in 2002.

Other Vale winners were James Wiltshire (200) and Ben Harding (shot) from St Cyres, the Stanwell duo of Tom Phillips (400) and Owen Haswell (1,500), Ruby Miller (800) and Scott Hewins (javelin) from Llantwit, Sian Balchin (Kings Monkton, javelin), Bryn Hafren year-11 Tillie Carter (long jump), and two Bro Morgannwg pupils – Lisa Williams (discus) and double winner Elinor Lewis (80m hurdles and triple jump).

Last year, Bro Morgannwg won both team competitions. They produced another strong team effort this year with mixed results, the girls retaining the trophy with a margin of 12 points over second-placed Cardiff High, while the north Cardiff school extracted revenge by claiming the boys' trophy.

Results of Vale pupils: Senior Boys – 100: 2= Curtis Mathews (Barry Comp) 11.8; 4 James Wiltshire (St Cy) 11.9; 6 Taylor Harding (Bro M) 12.7; 8 James Ray-Parsons (Lwt) 13.1; 9 Tom Harrison (Cow) 13.4; 200: 1 James Wiltshire (St Cy) 23.2; 3 Fred White (Cow) 24.2; 6 Taylor Harding (Bro M) 25.5; 9 Scott Hewins (Lwt) 27.7; 400: 1 Tom Phillips (Stan) 54.2; 5 Sam Morgan (Cow) 56.9; 6 Duke Durham (St Cy) 56.9; 7 Tiernan Scott (Bro M) 58.0; 8 Oliver Crosby (Lwt) 61.1; 800: 3 Dominic Farr (Bro M) 2:08.7; 4 Owen Haswell (Stan) 2:12.5; 5 Alex Simon (Lwt) 2:13.1; 7 Andrew Williams (Lwt) 2:31.9; 8 Steffan Kitchen (Cow) 2:34.1; 1,500: 1 Owen Haswell (Stan) 4:26.3; 2 Darren Jones (Lwt) 4:30.8; 3 Joe Whitmarsh Knight (Bro M) 4:38.4; 5 Daniel Lewis (St Cy) 4:46.7; 6 William Elliot (Cow) 5:06.2; 7 Kyle Garrison (Barry Coll) 6:00.1; 100H 3 Mike Lloyd (Cow) 16.1; 4 James Graves (Bro M) 16.1; 7 Duke Durham (St Cy) 18.3; HJ 1 Curtis Mathews (Barry Comp) 1.86 CupBP; 2= Sam Booker (Lwt) 1.70; 2= James Graves (Bro M) 1.70; 4 Mike Lloyd (Cow) 1.65; 7 Ben Harding (St Cy) 1.55; LJ 1 Curtis Mathews (Barry Comp) 6.21; 3 Sam Norman (Bro M) 5.68; 5 James Wiltshire (St Cy) 5.25; 8 Sam Bunkham (Cow) 4.94; 9 James Ray Parsons (Lwt) 3.70; TJ 3 Duke Durham (St Cy) 11.50; 4 Sam Bunkham (Cow) 11.45; 5 Zak Deere (Bro M) 11.43; 8 Sam Booker (Lwt) 10.56; 9 Kyle Garrison (Barry Coll) 8.08; SP (5kg): 1 Ben Harding (St Cy) 12.64; 2 Michael Daniels (Lwt) 11.48; 3 Oliver Trotman (Cow) 11.42; 5 Tom Perry (Bro M) 10.45; 9 Joe Hamonda (Barry Coll) 8.43; DT (1.5kg): 3 Scott Hewins (Lwt) 29.00; 4 Nick Davies (Cow) 27.70; 5 Sam Norman (Bro M) 24.41; Joe Hamonda (Barry Coll) dnc; JT (700g): 1 Scott Hewins (Lwt) 45.00; 3 Tiernan Scott (Bro M) 43.56; 4 Steffan Kitchen (Cow) 32.97; 7 Kyle Garrison (Barry Coll) 28.74; 4 x 100 3 Cowbridge 47.7; 5 YG Bro Morgannwg 49.5; 6 Llantwit Major 51.2.

Team: 1 Cardiff High 133.5; 2 YG Bro Morgannwg 112.5; 3 Cowbridge 107; 4 Llantwit Major 95.5; 5= St Cyres 81; 9 Barry Comprehensive 36.5; 10 Stanwell 35; 11 Barry College 20.

Senior Girls – 100: 3 Ellie Carter (Bryn H) 14.0; 4 Savannah Taylor (Bro M) 14.1; 5 Alice Thomas (Cow) 15.1; 6 Leanne Jones (Lwt) 15.7; 200: 3



ABOVE:
Talented cyclist Ruby Miller (Llantwit) won the 800 metres.



ABOVE:
Year-11 Bethan Daw (St Cyres) won the 1500 metres, bettering the 2001 best of Helen Tucker (Llantwit).

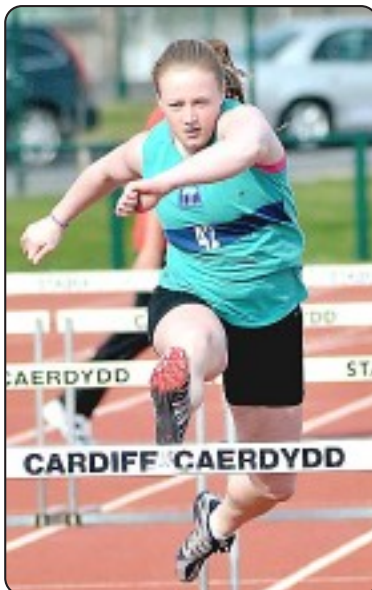
Leah Grisdale (Bro M) 29.7; 4 Alice Thomas (Cow) 31.1; 300: 3 Sara Meredith (Bro M) 45.1; 4 Georgia Kemeys (Cow) 49.8; 5 Ruby Miller (Lwt) 50.3; 800: 1 Ruby Miller (Lwt) 2:42.9; 2 Eleri Phillips Griffiths (Bro M) 2:51.4; 4 Sabrina James (Cow) 3:09.9; 1,500: 1 Bethan Daw St Cyres 5:00.3 CupBP; 3 Elinor Lewis (Bro M) 6:33.0; 4 Elsbeth Bisson (Cow) 6:58.3; 80H: 1 Elinor Lewis (Bro M) 13.4; 3 Natalie Parsons (Lwt) 14.5; 4 Georgina Jackson (Cow) 16.4; 5 Beth Heslop NS (Bro M) 16.8; HJ: 2 Leah Grisdale (Bro M) 1.35; 3 Molly Llewellyn (Cow) 1.30; 4 Natalie Parsons (Lwt) 1.30; LJ: 1 Ellie Carter (Bryn H) 4.17; 2 Savannah Taylor (Bro M) 4.16; 4 Sidney Crowther (Lwt) 3.95; 6 Lydia James (Cow) 3.24; TJ: 1 Elinor Lewis (Bro M) 9.66; 3 Lia Thomas (Bro M) 9.00; 5 Georgia Kerneys (Cow) 8.26; 6 Leanne Jones (Lwt) 7.86; SP: 1 Ayla Phillips (Barry Coll) 10.29 CupBP; 2 Sian Balchin (Kings M) 9.11; 3 Jessica Richards (Lwt) 7.36; 4 Louise Edwards (Cow) 7.20; 5 Harriett Vaughan (Bro M) 6.26; DT: 1 Lisa Williams (Bro M) 21.80; 2 Sian Balchin (Kings M) 21.51; 4 Amy Taylor (Cow) 15.96; 5 Jessica Richards (Lwt) 15.30; JT: 1 Sian Balchin (Kings M) 29.64; 2 Ayla Phillips (Barry Coll) 24.26; 3 Toyah Newman (Bryn H) 23.46; 4 Martha Holeyman (Bro M) 16.93; 6 Georgina Jackson (Cow) 16.36; 7 Danielle Davies (Lwt) 15.53; 4x100: 2 YG Bro Morgannwg 54.7; 4 Llantwit Major 59.8; 5 Cowbridge 61.0. Team: 1 YG Bro Morgannwg 113; 3 Cowbridge 86; 5 Llantwit Major 75; 6 Kings Monkton 29; 7 Bryn Hafren 27; 8 Barry College 20; 9 St Cyres 11.



ABOVE:
Aylsha Phillips (Barry College) won the shot for the third successive year, and set a new event best for the second year.



ABOVE:
Year-13 Curtis Mathews (Barry Comprehensive) set a new high jump best of 1.86 metres.



ABOVE:
James Graves (Bro Morgannwg, 42) and Mike Lloyd (Cowbridge, 41) battle it out in the 100 metres hurdles.

LEFT:
Bro Morgannwg year 13 Elinor Lewis completed a hurdles and triple jump double for the second year, and gained points in the 1500 metres.



ABOVE:
Winner of the long jump - Bryn Hafren year 11 Tillie Carter.



ABOVE:
Kings Monkton Year 13 Sian Balchin, won the javelin for a second year.

Sunday Saints turn on style after Cup disappointment

PHEASANT POACHERS	1
SUNDAY SAINTS	8

THE Saints bounced back from Cup disappointment a few weeks ago with an emphatic win over bottom placed Pheasant.

With more than three weeks without a game, The Saints were eager to get back to winning ways and did so in style.

The Saints started well despite not playing for weeks and Nick Dyke shot wide early on. Moments later Dyke did get on the score sheet when he chested a knock down from Mark Pickering to lash the ball home to open the scoring.

Gavin Morgans, in a rare foray forward, almost doubled the lead but his strike from the edge of the area was blocked off the line.

The Saints, though, took their foot off the gas and allowed their opponents back into the game and the Pheasant grew in confidence.

They began to knock the ball about comfortably, but their final ball just let them down. The Saints did not heed the warning and paid the price when their forward was put through only to see his shot saved magnificently by John MacDonald, but the keeper could do nothing about the rebound which was tapped in.

This was the wake up call the Saints needed and they struck back straight away as a Bowling ball into the box was fumbled by the keeper and Dyke was there to pounce to restore The Saints lead which they were not to lose again.

Dyke then flicked the ball cleverly through to Leigh Lewis but his volley went over.

The Saints had that bit of luck and now began to really hassle their opponents and work for the right to have the ball.

A short goal kick to the home full back saw Dyke close him down and force him to give the ball away to Leigh Lewis whose deft chip over the on coming defender was perfect for Reece Lewis to smash in a brilliant volley with fantastic technique.

The Saints went in firm control now and made it four just before the break when Reece Lewis's pin point corner was headed in by Dyke at the back post for Dyke to complete his hat trick.

The Saints went in 4-1 up and in complete control.

The Saints picked up where they left off and Leigh Lewis's ball through to Dyke saw the on fire hitman just shoot wide.

Leigh Lewis then went on one of his meandering runs and was taken down by two defenders 25 yards out from goal. Leigh picked himself up and then curled in a superb free kick right into the side of the net that any keeper would have struggled to save, a real treat for the spectators.

Leigh was at it again moments later when Dyke's flick put him in on goal and Lewis fired past the keeper to make it 6-1.

The Saints were looking at double figures and Leigh Lewis's cross field pass was ideal for Dyke who took it in his stride magnificently and went on to score his fourth of the game.

The Saints were cruising and Pickering headed over from a corner and then again moments later when Morgans looked better placed and Gavin let him know.

Jordan Mortimore, on as a sub, nearly added to his 32 goal tally but his effort was narrowly over.

Pickering did get on the score sheet when Leigh Lewis's corner found the Saint's skipper at the back post to head home the eighth of the game and wrap up the scoring, a goal fully deserved for the hard working captain.

It was almost nine late on when Lewis broke into the box and his cross saw Dyke strike the post at full stretch and sub Ryan Randall was unlucky to blaze over.

The Saints were back to winning ways with a great display of attacking football and with local rivals the Tudor Taverners hot on their tails The Saints kept their place in third.

The Saints now have one game left in two weeks up in Llangeinor, a must win match against second place to hopefully keep the Tudor at bay and hold on to a much deserved third place after a memorable season for the Sunday Saints.

Man of the Match could have gone to many people with Mark Pickering and Reece Lewis excelling. Leigh Lewis was on sparkling from with two goals and four assists but Man of the Match went to Nick Dyke for a four goal haul, an assist and a truly hard working display from the lone striker.

The Saints - John MacDonald, Brian Hunt, Rob Collings, Tom Roberts, Gavin Morgans, TJ Bowring, Marc Dobson, Reece Lewis, Mark Pickering (Capt), Leigh Lewis, Nick Dyke, Subs - Alan Lawson, Jordan Mortimore, Ryan Randall.

LLANTWIT MAJOR JUNIOR FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

UNDER-15 GLORY BOYS LIFT THE LEAGUE CUP

LLANTWIT MAJOR under-15s beat Barry Town at Jenner Park on Sunday to win the League Cup.

Barry Town, who are currently the league leaders were outplayed by the Llantwit side who came away with a 4-0 win.

Jamie Griffiths gave Llantwit the lead midway through the first half when he latched on to a poor clearance to drive the ball home.

It was reward for Major who had started well and had created the early chances.

Before the interval,

Adam Roscrow made it 2-0 with a powerful shot through a crowded goal area and Llantwit were well on their way to victory.

Barry Town had more of the game early in the second half but created little, and it was Major who came back strongly with a third goal from Lewys Jones.

The silverware was now heading to Llantwit and in the closing minutes, Dafydd James

Isaacs notched a fourth goal to make it a day to remember for the Llantwit Major team.

In midweek, the under-15s beat Cadoxton Imps 7-1 at Windmill Lane with Dafydd James Isaacs notching up a hat trick. Further goals came from Kieron Sharrat (2), Daniel Owen and Robert Sawyer.

The under-14 A side beat Dinas Powys B 3-0 away in midweek in their quest for the league championship.

Geraint Jones, Tom Russell and Edward Howley scored.

On Saturday, the under-14 A entertained Barry Bluebirds and

won 8-0.

Tom Russell scored a hat trick with Joe Laing (2), Edward Howley and Ashley Morris adding further goals with an own goal making up the tally.

The under-13 B also played two matches, both at home. On Wednesday they lost 7-2 against Penmark United with Ben Myers and Leon Morris on target.

Then, on Saturday, Dinas Powys B were the visitors and they beat the Llantwit lads 4-1.

Matthew Broderick scored for Major and Dean Latcham deserves a special mention for a very good display.

by GWYN JOHN

CLUB AND MEMBER PROUD TO BE RECOGNISED IN CITIZEN AWARDS

Llantwit Major Cavaliers set for exciting season

AS you will have read in last week's GEM, Llantwit Major Cavaliers stalwart Tim Bunce and the cricket club were commended, and awarded first prize, in the team/senior sports categories in the prestigious Llantwit Major Citizens Awards.

It was with a massive amount of pride that club chairman Neal Pritchard, youth organiser and 2nd XI skipper Phil Harris, and Tim Bunce accepted the awards from the mayor and Matthew Maynard's mother.

The Cavaliers are an ambitious, progressive club and hopefully they will gain more success this season after finishing last season as Division 3 champions.

Nigel Allison is this year's 1st XI captain with Phil Harris leading the Seconds.

The nucleus of the first team squad have been together for several seasons and have an exciting mixture of old heads, precocious talent and very promising youngsters.

Opening batsman Julian Griffiths scored more than 1,000 runs last season, and in his Cavaliers career, he has passed 4,600 runs, hitting 26 50s and 11 tons - despite the fact that he had a year out with the Sully Centurions championship winning side, and the fact that he will be celebrating his 24th birthday this week.

Youngsters Sam Pickford and James Huxtable have forced their way into the reckoning with some excellent displays last season, while waiting in the wings are veterans Neal Pritchard and Paul McGinn who have guided Llantwit's younger players so well.

Harry Withers, in his second season with the club, is a star wicket-keeper batsman who claimed the first car win-

As well as his batting prowess, he is a class bowler needing just one more wicket to notch a double century of dismissals for the Cavaliers seniors.

A wonderfully athletic fielder with 54 catches, the high standards he sets are being mirrored by his team mates who are continually improving to support their bowlers.

Llantwit are by no means a one-man show. Skipper Nigel Allison has more than 1,000 career runs to his name, as does young Jonathan Cheal, another brilliant all rounder who has a great future ahead of him having topped the wicket taking last season.

Last season's skipper Mike Wood, an accomplished opening bowler, has also passed 1,000 runs.

Mark Coldwell and Ed Pickford should pass the 3,000-run mark in the opening fortnight, while the colourful James Snelson, and enigmatic Shane Callard have passed the 2,000-run mark with Snelson also a lively front line bowler.

Youngsters Sam Pickford and James Huxtable have forced their way into the reckoning with some excellent displays last season, while waiting in the wings are veterans Neal Pritchard and Paul McGinn who have guided Llantwit's younger players so well.

Harry Withers, in his second season with the club, is a star wicket-keeper batsman who claimed the first car win-

dow of the season down at Barry last week with a towering six!

The Seconds narrowly missed out on silverware last season with several nerve-wracking last-over shootouts that made for brilliantly entertaining and exciting cricket.

Sure to keep the first team on their toes, skipper Phil Harris can call upon the skills and experience of the likes of Dave Cheal and Tim Bunce with a few other old heads and a host of up and coming youngsters.

Llantwit's first pre-season friendly was away to Barry Athletic. Despite early breakthroughs and some good bowling by Jonathan Cheal, Mike Wood, Sam Pickford, Julian Griffiths, Mark Dowling, Dave Cheal, James Snelson and Andrew Williams, the Athletic reached 200 for 5 off their 39 overs.

After a bit of a sluggish start in the face of some accurate bowling, Llantwit eventually took up the run chase with a gusto, but steadily lost wickets as they attempted to hit out.

Julian Griffiths led the way with a fine 66 runs before being caught in the deep, and although Mark Coldwell, Harry Withers, James Snelson, Mike Wood and Mark Dowling all got into the double figures, the Cavaliers finished up 34 runs adrift.

Last Sunday, the Cavaliers travelled to Barry Wanderers with the home side electing to bowl first on a damp wicket, a decision they soon regretted as open-

ers Mark Coldwell and Julian Griffiths soon got into their stride.

Coldwell fell for 20 runs with Harry Withers adding another 25 in a brisk partnership with Griffiths before skipper Nigel Allison came to the crease to knock a confident half century.

Griffiths went on to carry his bat for a superb 152 runs with Mike Wood making an excellent 41 not out in a cracking fifth wicket stand.

Chasing 319 to win at eight an over, the Wanderers got off to a solid start but found the Cavaliers bowlers in equally good form as their batsmen, with Jonathan Cheal's nine-over spell giving figures of 3 for 38 runs.

Dad, Dave Cheal, was in superb form with figures of 7 overs, 4 maidens 2 wickets for just four runs, while Adrian Ashton and Julian Griffiths picked up a wicket each. Griffiths also pounced two catches as Llantwit's fielding was considerably improved from the previous week.

This Saturday, the Firsts begin their League campaign with a tough trip to Abertillery, while the Seconds host Cefn Forest, both games starting 1.30pm.

On Sunday, the 1st XI have a Welsh Cup game at Windmill Lane against neighbours Pencoed, 2pm start.

DAVID GRIFFITHS

Call for a clampdown on John Street traffic

PARKING issues in Porthcawl have been raised by the town councillor Mike Clarke who now chairs Nottage PACT.

He said that residents had highlighted problems including the one caused by people parking all day in the one-hour parking bays in upper John Street near the bus terminus.

Residents had also reported that there are an increasing number of cars accessing John Street before 11am who are not blue badge holders and who are parking in the street, limiting access to shops for people who are disabled.

Mr Clarke said that non-disabled drivers should not be in the street and there was the issue of

what would happen if an accident takes place involving one of these cars which had no right to be there.

He added that there was a need for parking restrictions and other laws to be enforced in Porthcawl.

Coun Chris Smart said it was good to see PACT taking such an interest in these matters.

He said: "We are aware of the speed of traffic going down John Street and also the non-blue badge holders using it."

"We are not a highway authority and a lot of this is a matter for the police."

Coun Smart said he supported PACT in their call for short stay parking in the town centre to encourage shoppers into town, and he said that the town council was calling for some free parking in the town's car parks.

"I want to thank him and members of PACT for this letter," he said.

"We should take this up with the police and I am surprised that it was not picked up by officers attending their meeting. We will contact the police and the highway authority."

Coun David Newton Williams said that police were at the meeting and reported that they had booked at least 30 people for illegal parking in John Street after hours.

"But it will do no harm to write and remind them of the problem. It is the abuse of the disabled stickers," he added.

It was agreed to send a copy of the letter to Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

Tiger Caitlin to join Vale Academy

CAITLIN HODGKINSON of the Llantwit Tigers under-10s football team, recently had trials with the Vale Football Academy.

Caitlin excelled at the trials and was asked to join the academy. All the team were delighted for her and they all showed their wild side on hearing the news!



RIGHT: Tiger under-10s.

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.4 LT 5dr: Urban - 35.8 (7.9), Extra-urban - 60.1 (4.7), Combined - 47.9 (5.9), CO₂ emissions 140g/km. Captiva 2.0 VCDi LT 5-seat: Urban - 31.7 (8.9), Extra-urban - 42.8 (6.6), Combined - 38.2 (7.4), CO₂ emissions 197g/km. Cruze 1.6 LS 4dr: Urban - 31.4 (9.0), Extra-urban - 51.4 (5.5), Combined - 41.5 (6.8), CO₂ emissions 159g/km. Chevrolet Spark range emissions: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO₂ Emissions 119 g/km.

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE

Ms T Simmons – 32 Heol Y Frenhines, Southra Park, Dinas Powys – first floor side extension and new attached garage to side.
Mr David Schuster – 55 Rhodfa Sweldon, the Waterfront, Barry – erection of conservatory at rear of property.
Mr James Hadley – Lextan Limited, 95 Holtton Road, Barry – retrospective application for the change of use to tanning studio and installation of new shop front.
Mr and Mrs A Torok – 98 Churchfields, Barry – two storey side extension, erection of flat roofed detached garage to rear, installation of Velux rooflights and sun collectors to dwelling roof.
Mrs Nina Chivers – 41 Marine Drive, Barry – proposed internal alterations, including re-positioning of front entrance door and extending existing attached garage.
Mr Rob Robson – 5 Trepit Road, Wick – amendments to approval 2009/00686/FUL single storey extension to rear and single storey extension to front of dwelling.
Cemex UK Operations Ltd – Wenvoe Quarry, Wenvoe – continued operation of recycled aggregate facility previously approved under application number 2009/00817/FUL.
Mr J Newark – Old factory House, Llanblethian, Cowbridge – fell one sycamore.

Mr Brian Thomas – 11 Tyle House Close, Llanmaes – fell a Rowan, ash, cherry and silver birch in rear garden.
Fitz Project Management – 25 Augusta Crescent, Penarth – ground floor and dormer extensions to existing bungalow.
Mr Edward Rees – 21 Clinton Road, Penarth (opposite 31 Victoria Road) – installation of new coloured green cabinet.
Dr Colin Smith – 38 Harbour's Edge, Plas Taliesin, Portway Marina, Penarth – erection of single storey front extension.
Mrs HEJ Laurence – 3 Alwen Drive, Barry – uPVC porch.
Miss Sarah Lowe – 1 Leoline Close, Cowbridge – dormer extension.
Mr David Thomas – Maendy Isaf House, Trethryngyll Road, Maendy, Cowbridge – single storey side extensions including replacement garage and conservatory to rear.
Mr and Mrs S Dodd – 32 Clos y Fulfran, Nell's Point, Barry Island – proposed single storey extension and alterations to form extended kitchen and new entrance hall with terrace above.
Mr and Mrs Warne – 19 Denbigh Way, Barry – single storey extension.
Mr Dilwyn Gore – 11 New Barn Holdings, Flemingston, Nr Barry – proposed new field gate access and stable

block.
Ms Jeanette Minns – 16 Vale View Crescent, Llandough – double storey side extension and single storey porch.
Mr John Owen – land adjacent to Bron Hyfryd, Tair Cross, Llanphar – demolish garage and rebuild.
Fun Foundations – The Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge – change of use from offices (B1 use) to day nursery (D1 use).
Mr Charles Porter – 1 Police House, Winston Road, Barry – change of use from office accommodation back to a single residential dwelling.
Mr Michael Sing – 34 Shakespeare Avenue, Penarth – roof extension to form 'bonnet hip' and flat roof dormer to rear.
Mr Alan Whatling – 12 Hinchliff Avenue, Barry – two storey side and single storey front

extensions.
Mr Phil Barnett – 33 Coldbrook Road East, Barry – demolish existing lean-to outhouse and construct single storey extension to rear of property.
Mrs PE Holdsworth – 11 Stradling Close, Cowbridge – single storey side extension.
Mrs H Bray – The Beeches (was Conway), Windsor Terrace Lane, Penarth – removal Eucalyptus from front, remove ash sapling, apple tree, oak saplings and unidentified sapling.
Mr Winters – The Old Forge, 23 Britway Road, Dinas Powys – remove two semi-mature ash trees.
Mr and Mrs Richard and Jane Williams – Caradoc Cottage, Llancarfan – demolition of existing derelict cottage (to be replaced by proposed new low energy dwelling and garage).
Miss Caroline Morgan,

WE Morgan & Son – Penuchadre Farm, St Brides Major – extension to existing building.
Graeme Yorston – The Paddocks, Home Farm, Hensol – 1) addition of new external wall around perimeter of buildings incorporating insulation; 2) increase in size of slate roofs; 3) removal of two external trench doors and addition of bi-fold doors.
Mr Mark Tarrant – 59 Boverton Road, Llantwit Major – proposed extension and garage.

Mr John Paul Edwards – 3 Barons Close, Llantwit Major – demolition of existing single storey side annexe, erection of two storey side and rear extension with a single storey rear lean-to and covered canopy.
Mr Richard Morris – 24 Shakespeare Drive, Llantwit Major – single storey kitchen/dining room extension to the rear of the property.
Mr Gary Watson – 21 Lakeside, Cold Knap, Barry – balcony extension.



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- 07 07 BMW X3 2.5si SE Automatic in platinum bronze metallic with sand beige leather interior, aluminum running boards, cd, front and rear parking sensors, heated seats, only 33,160 miles£18,995
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- 06 56 BMW 116i SE 5-dr in sparkling graphite met with full Boston beige leather interior, comfort pack, cd, climate control, alloy wheels, reversing sensors, auxiliary i-pod connection, only 19,950 miles interior titanium trim, auto lights and auto wipers£11,995
- 06 56 SAAB 9-3 1.9 T16 (150bhp) Vector 4-dr Saloon Automatic. In steel grey with half leather seats, steering wheel mounted gear change, climate control, rear parking sensors, in dash music CD, only 46,905 miles£8,995
- 05 05 BMW X5 3.0D Automatic Sport 5-Dr Station Wagon. In sparkling graphite with black leather interior, 19" alloy wheels, air con, CD, front/rear parking sensors, privacy glass, only 52,290 miles£17,995
- 05 05 AUDI A4 Cabriolet 1.8 5 Line 6 speed. In met silver with profile 5-line interior, 18" alloys, BOSE stereo upgrade, 6 cd multi-changer, glove box fridge, climate control, only 42,365 miles£12,995
- 04 54 MERCEDES Benz CL500 5 litre 2-dr Auto coupe. In tanzanite blue with java leather interior with BOSE sound system, AMG body styling, electric sunroof, only 48,245 miles£19,995
- 04 04 PORSCHE Carrera 3.6 Convertible in lapis blue with metropole leather, bose speaker upgrade, startlight navigation, phone system, cruise control, trip computer, heated seats, sports exhaust system, full Porsche service history, hard top, only 42,761 miles£29,995
- 03 53 LEXUS LS600 2.0 Sport 4-dr Saloon in platinum ice silver with black suede interior, electric sunroof, electric driver and passenger seat adjust, heated front seats, climate control, service history, only 51,155 miles£6,995
- 02 02 LEXUS GS300 SE Auto in platinum ice silver with Pembroke black leather interior, electric memory seats, sunroof, alloy wheels, climate control, cruise control, heated seats, only 52,262 miles£4,495
- 01 51 MERCEDES SLK200 Kompressor 6-spd Convertible in Linarite blue with full Siam leather interior, traction control, convertible roof, traction control, alloy wheels, cd, fsh, only 51,315 miles£7,995

SPORTS

- 09 58 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 SRI Sport Hatch (Design Exterior Package) In technical grey met with silver alpha interior, air con, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, rear spoiler, trip computer, only 26,770 miles£10,995
- 07 57 HYUNDAI Coupe SIII in steel grey with full red leather interior, climate control, sunroof, cruise control, alloy wheels, only 23,600 miles£10,495
- 07 07 SEAT Leon 2.0 TDI DPF FR 5-dr Hatchback. In black magic with FR grey interior, cruise control, air con, traction control system, ESP, only 36,598 miles£13,495
- 06 56 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.4TSI (170ps) FT in silver metallic with siennere anthracite interior, climate control, air con, front fogs, alloy wheels, cd, only 49,998 miles£10,995
- 06 56 HONDA Civic 1.8i Vtec Type-S 3-dr Hatchback. In alabaster silver with alcantara/suede interior, climate control, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 24,405 miles£10,495
- 06 56 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GT TDI 2.0 (140) 5-dr in steel grey with dark interior, cd, dual climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, only 58,300 miles£9,995
- 06 56 AUDI A3 2.0T FSI 5-dr Sport Back in Avus silver with matrix cloth interior, BOSE speaker system, 17 inch alloy wheels, front fog, cd, only 39,280 miles£11,995
- 04 04 TOYOTA MR2 1.8 VVTI 140 6-spd in sable grey met with Santa Monica leather, alloy wheels, chrome roll over bar, wind deflector, cd, alarm and immobiliser, only 49,750 miles£7,995
- 04 54 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.9 TDI (100ps) Sport 5-dr in rosewood red pearlescent with scala sports interior, alloy wheels, air con, body coloured bumpers, cd, only 59,790 miles£6,495
- 04 54 MG TF 1.8 135 Convertible. In ignition blue with anthracite Sebring interior, alloy wheels, cd player, alarm and immobiliser only 27,100 miles£4,995
- 04 04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr Hatchback. In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, cruise control, alloy wheels, cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles£4,995
- 04 04 CITROEN C2 1.6 VTR Sensodrive in arctic steel silver with neutron mesh interior, paddle shift, alloy wheels, air con, colour coded bumpers, rear spoiler, cd, only 62,100 miles£4,295
- 03 03 MAZDA MX5 1.8i option pack in strada blue with black sports interior, cd, alloy wheels, e/c windows, heated rear screen, only 83,750 miles£5,495
- 03 53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-door Convertible. In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles£4,495
- 02 02 MG ZS 2.5 180i. In anthracite black with monaco ash interior with red inserts, alloy wheels, a/c, cd, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, alarm and immobiliser, only 62,310 miles£2,995

FAMILY

- 09 09 FORD FOCUS 1.6 (100ps) Style 5 door hatchback in Aquarius blue with dark flint interior, air con, front fog lights, colour coded bumpers, manufacturers warranty only 5,760 miles£9,995
- 07 57 CITROEN C3 1.4 HDi Cool 5-dr hatchback in Arctic silver with Galand black interior, air con, cd, immobiliser, er, 336 a year road tax, one owner, only 37,845 miles£6,995
- 06 56 TOYOTA Corolla T2 Colour Collection, 1.4 5-dr Hatchback. In eclipse black with silver fleck interior, a/c, alloys, colour coded side skirts, audio controls on steering wheel, one owner, only 32,415 miles£7,995
- 06 56 FIAT Grande Punto 200 Diesel Automatic prestige in met grey with full grey leather interior, traction control, climate control, panoramic sunroof, alloys, only 29,277 miles£7,995
- 06 06 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi (130bhp) SiV Ghia 6-spd in sea grey met with Aras interior, Sony cd, quickclear front screen, cruise control, climate control, alloy wheels, only 47,500 miles£7,495
- 05 05 HYUNDAI Getz 1.1 GSi 5-dr in clean silver with grey cloth interior, cd, 5 belted seats, driver and passenger airbags, immobiliser, colour coded bumpers, only 26,280 miles£3,995
- 05 55 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique in met platinum silver with ruche cloth interior, auto lights, auto wipers, air con, cd, electric windows, only 16,360 miles£3,995
- 05 05 HONDA Civic 1.7 CDTI in magnetic blue with hatch fabric interior, alloy wheels, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 55,130 miles£6,495
- 04 04 TOYOTA Avenis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon. Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, seat adjusters, only 55,065 miles£6,495
- 04 04 SKODA Fabia 1.2 Limited Edition 5-dr hatchback in met green with grey interior, alloy wheels, electric windows, colour coded bumpers, service history, only 52,765 miles£3,795
- 03 03 HONDA Civic Type S 5-dr in clover green met with half leather sports seats, climate control, alloy wheels, rear spoiler, full service history, only 41,820 miles£5,295
- 03 52 BMW 1.8 316i SE Touring Estate in Sapphire Black with anthracite interior, alloys wheels, 6 CD multichanger automatic air con, colour coded bumpers, only 50,280 miles£6,995
- 02 51 TOYOTA Corolla 1.6 VVTi GLS Automatic in Atlantis blue metallic with honey interior, alloy wheels, air con, sunroof, cd auto-changer, body coloured bumpers, only 54,790 miles£3,495

SMALL

- 09 09 VAUXHALL Corsa Club A/C 1.2 16v 5-Dr. In black sapphire, with cable charcoal interior, air con, colour coded bumpers, CD, alarm and immobiliser, auxiliary output, only 18,218 miles£8,495
- 09 09 CHEVROLET Aveo LT 1.4 in pearl black with bracket cloth, aircon, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, alarm and immobiliser, cd, only 16,800 miles£6,995
- 08 58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v Design (A/C). 5 door in ice blue with dark interior, air con, MP3 input, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, only 19,950 miles£8,495
- 08 58 VAUXHALL Corsa Breeze 1.0 12v 3-Dr. In silver lightning with punch charcoal interior, alloy wheels, air con, CD, colour coded bumpers, only 12,010 miles£7,295
- 08 08 FORD Ka Zetec Climate in diamond white with cascade indigo interior, colour coded bumpers, alloy wheels, air con, cd, quickclear front screen, only 18,130 miles£5,995
- 08 08 FORD KA Studio. In panther black with cascade interior, immobiliser, CD, drivers airbag, central locking, only 32,349 miles£4,995
- 07 57 FORD KA Style Climate. In tango red with cascade interior, colour coded bumpers, air con, CD, Quickclear front screen, only 32,136 miles£5,295
- 07 07 PEUGEOT 107 1.2 Urban 3 door hatchback in met blue with black interior, CD, elect windows, full service history, one owner, £35 a year road tax, only 7,080 miles£5,995
- 07 07 RENAULT Clio Dynamique 1.4 5-dr Hatchback in silver with black interior, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, fog lights, only 37,550 miles£6,995
- 06 06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with grey interior, alloy wheels, steering wheel mounted audio controls, colour coded bumpers, CD, only 19,860 miles£5,995
- 06 55 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style Climate 3-dr in tonic blue with Kyoto ebony interior, air con, quickclear front screen, cd, trip computer, body coloured bumpers, only 41,820 miles£5,295
- 06 55 TOYOTA Aygo 1.0VVTi Sport in carbon quartz metallic with flint interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, cd, alarm and immobiliser, only 52,162 miles£4,995
- 06 06 FORD Ka 1.3 Collection in panther black with Tic-Toc interior, cd, body coloured bumpers, immobiliser, only 30,866 miles£4,195
- 05 05 MINI 1.6 One (salt) 3-dr Hatchback. In pure silver with anthracite interior, 6 CD changer, automatic dipping rear-view mirror, panoramic roof, body coloured bumpers, only 39,600 miles£7,995
- 05 05 HYUNDAI Getz 1.1 GSi 5-dr in clean silver with grey cloth interior, cd, 5 belted seats, driver and passenger airbags, immobiliser, colour coded bumpers, only 26,280 miles£3,995
- 04 04 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet 2-dr in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cdm alloy wheels, alarm, only 43,895 miles£6,495
- 04 54 FORD Fiesta 1.4 SILVER Limited Edition. In moon dust silver with full midnight black leather, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, cd, only 29,775 miles£4,995
- 04 04 CITROEN C3 1.1i 5-dr Hatchback in met silver with light interior, remote central locking, alloy wheels, alarm and immobiliser, driver and passenger airbag, power assisted steering, only 28,640 miles£3,495
- 03 53 MINI Cooper 1.6 Pepper in pure silver met with Kaleido half leather interior, panoramic sunroof, alloy wheels, cd, body coloured bumpers, only 24,530 miles£5,995
- 03 53 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v SXi 3-dr hatchback in black with dark interior, colour coded bumpers, alloy wheels, cd, only 45,800 miles£3,795
- 01 51 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet SE 2-dr in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, digital climate control, alloy wheels, front fogs, only 40,010 miles£3,995
- 01 51 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.4S 3-dr in reflex silver met with Pepe interior, sunroof, body coloured bumpers, cd, immobiliser, full VW service history, only 68,350 miles£3,495
- L 93 AUSTIN Mini 1.3 Sprite 2 door automatic in night fire red with grey interior, all original specification only 47,700 miles£1,995



09 58 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 SRI Sport Hatch (Design Exterior Package) In technical grey met with silver alpha interior, air con, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, rear spoiler, trip computer, only 26,770 miles£10,995



06 56 HONDA Jazz 1.4 Sport in Sirius blue with dark interior, air con, alloy wheels, 5 belted seats, service history, only 36,600 miles£7,995



06 06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with grey interior, alloy wheels, steering wheel mounted audio controls, colour coded bumpers, CD, only 19,860 miles£5,995



05 05 HYUNDAI Getz 1.1 GSi 5-dr in clean silver with grey cloth interior, cd, 5 belted seats, driver and passenger airbags, immobiliser, colour coded bumpers, only 26,280 miles£3,995



01 51 MERCEDES SLK200 Kompressor 6-spd Convertible in Linarite blue with full Siam leather interior, electric convertible roof, traction control, alloy wheels, cd, fsh, only 51,315 miles£7,995



04 04 TOYOTA MR2 1.8 VVTi 140 6-spd in sable grey met with Santa Monica leather, alloy wheels, chrome roll over bar, wind deflector, cd, alarm and immobiliser, only 49,750 miles£7,995



03 53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-door Convertible. In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles£4,495



04 04 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet 2-dr in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cdm alloy wheels, alarm, only 43,895 miles£6,495

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52 FORD Fiesta in black mica, late style 3-dr hatch. LOW INSURANCE, only 67k, PAS ~~£2295~~ **NOW £2495**



02 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Ghia 5-dr in green met, 5-dr hatch, excellent condition, power steering, air con, wood trim, MoT until October 2010 ~~£2495~~ **NOW £2295**



02 FORD Focus 1.8 LX TDDi 5-dr Estate in white, Diesel, excellent condition, part exchange to clear, New MoT **NOW £2495**



52 FORD Ka 1.3 3-dr in silver met, lovely condition with full service history, MoT until August **NOW £2295**



N MAZDA MX5 in red, UK car, excellent condition, completely original, MoT ~~£1895~~ **NOW £1795**



S BMW 318S 4-dr 1.9 E36 in Avus blue, M Sport model, sports seats, rae twin cam 1.9, 147bhp, New MoT ~~£1895~~ **NOW £1795**



54 ROVER 45 1.6 in British racing green, with only 61,000 miles, PAS, Airbags, SMALL FAMILY CAR **NOW £2995**



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N MITSUBISHI Shogun 2.5 GLX TD SWB 3-dr in silver met, diesel, 4-wheel drive, MoT until December 2010, alloys, a/c, e/w, pas **NOW £1995**



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L LANDROVER Discovery 3.5 V8i 5-dr in red, late V8i model with fully working LPG gas, e/w, excellent fun, MoT until January 2011 **NOW £795**



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04 VW Beetle 2.0 Convertible. In red, 47,000 miles, 1 owner, 4 seater convertible.....£8,995



52 BMW Z3 2.2 Roadster. In silver with black leather trim, 44,000 miles, very nice example.....£7,995



02 PEUGEOT 206cc 20. In met-blue with black leather trim, 58,000 mile convertible at.....£4,695



Y AUDI TT 1.80 Convertible. In black with tan leather, 56,000 miles, Xenon heated seats, multi-CD etc.....£7,995

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04	MERCEDES SL55 AMG. In met silver with grey leather trim, 33,000 miles, panoramic roof, command Bose etc.	£32,995
55	MERCEDES S 320 CDI. In silver with black leather, 47,000 miles, high spec diesel executive saloon at	£16,995
05	MERCEDES CLK 220 CDI. In silver with grey leather trim, 60,000 miles, usual refinements.....	REDUCED BY £1000 TO £13,995
05	AUDI A4 Avant 1.9TDI SE. In silver, 50,000 miles, desirable diesel estate at	£10,995
53	JAGUAR XJ8 3.6 Automatic. In silver with cream leather trim, 53,000 miles, luxury motoring at	REDUCED BY £2000 TO £9,995
04	VW Beetle 2.0 Convertible. In red, 47,000 miles, 1 owner, 4 seater convertible	£8,995
04	CHRYSLER Crossfire 3.2 Coupe. In ice blue metallic with charcoal leather trim, 44,000 miles	£8,495
52	MERCEDES ML 270 CDI. In black with grey leather trim, 91,000 miles, heated seats, climate control etc	£7,995
52	BMW Z3 2.2 Roadster. In silver with black leather trim, 44,000 miles, very nice example	£7,995
Y	AUDI TT 1.80 Convertible. In black with tan leather, 56,000 miles, Xenon heated seats, multi-CD etc.	£7,995
02	LEXUS GS300 SE Navigator. In claret metallic with light grey leather trim, 75,000 miles, looks and drives superb	£6,995
05	RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique CC. In silver, 43,000 miles, 4 seater convertible	REDUCED BY £500 TO £6,495
Y	BMW Z3 2.2 In black with black leather trim, 77,000 miles	£5,995
53	VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Convertible. In electric blue with black hood, 48,000 miles, full electric hood, a/c, CD	£4,995
51	TOYOTA Celica 1.8VVTi. In blue, 75,000 miles with glass roof, rear spoiler etc.....	£4,995
02	PEUGEOT 206cc 20. In met-blue with black leather trim, 58,000 mile convertible at.....	£4,695
02	TOYOTA Corolla T-Sport 3-dr. In champagne metallic, 63,000 miles, 1 local owner, FSH	REDUCED BY £300 TO £3,995
06	MGZR 14 (105) 3-dr. In met. blue, 46,000 miles, low insurance with alloys, cd, etc	£3,995
03	AUDI A3 1.6 3-Dr. In black, usual refinements on this sought-after model	£3,995
02	MG ZT 2.5. In silver with sports interior, looks and drives superb at	£3,795
T	BMW 535i Auto. In silver with grey leather trim, 84,000 miles, s/roof, a/c, alloys, CD	£2,995
04	ALFA ROMEO 156 1.8 Twin Spark Lusso. In Monza green metallic, 86,000 miles, on offer at	£2,995
X	BMW 316SE Compact. In silver, 86,000 miles, cd, a/c, alloys	£2,495

SMALL, ECONOMICAL AND FAMILY CARS

08	HONDA Civic Hybrid Automatic ES. In silver, 3,800 miles, high specification dual fuel with £15 a year road tax	£11,995
07	SKODA Octavia 1.9 TDI 5-Dr. In silver, 37,000 miles, idesl diesel hatch at	£7,995
05	MINI COOPER In chilli red with checkered flag details, 48,000 miles with Cooper alloys etc.	£7,995
07	RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique Automatic 5-dr. In met sand, 18,000 miles, 1 owner	£6,995
05	TOYOTA Prius 1.5 Hybrid T3 Auto. In blue, sixty plus to the gallon and £10 per year road tax	£6,995
56	FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec Climate Automatic 3-dr. In black, 12,000 miles, superb value at	£6,995
53	HONDA Civic 1.6 Executive 5-dr. In forest pearl silver with black leather trim, 35,000 miles, fsh	REDUCED BY £500 TO £6,995
53	FORD Galaxy 1.9TDDi Ghia 6-speed. In met silver, 61,000 miles, high spec diesel, 7 seater	£6,995
07	RENAULT Clio 12 Expression 3-dr. In steel blue, 33,000 miles with a/c, c/d, etc	£6,495
57	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Look 3-dr. In diablo red, 24,000 miles, under manufacturer warranty	REDUCED BY £300 TO £5,995
07	FIAT Grande Punto 1.4 Dynamique Sport Automatic. Met blue, 23,000 miles	REDUCED BY £1000 TO £5,995
05	FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec Climate 5-dr. In ice blue met, 39,000 miles with a/c	£5,995
54	TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 T3X 5-dr. In silver, 42,000 miles, 2 owner example at	£5,995
04	TOYOTA Corolla 2.0 D4D T3 5-dr. In silver, 54,000 mile diesel with sat-nav	£5,995
07	VW Passat 1.9TDI Highliner 130 Automatic. In silver with black leather, 84,000 miles, high spec	£5,695
07	CITROEN C4 1.4 LX 5-dr. In gun metal met, 35,000 miles, stylish hatch at	£5,495
55	NISSAN Primara 2.0 SX 5-dr. In silver, 35,000 miles with sat-nav, alloys, reversing camera	£5,495
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GEM sport

Athletic's comeback is just too late

THE Athletic travelled west to Llangennech for their penultimate fixture of the season, hoping to get things back on track after last week's heavy defeat at the hands of division champions Tonmawr.

Conditions could not have been more different than when the reverse fixture was played in December, when the Athletic had been given a lesson in controlled rugby in adverse conditions.

On Saturday, the pitch was hard and the sun shone brightly when the teams took the field.

Although Athletic attacked into the home team's half from the off, they gave away two penalties that carried play back to their own 10m line. From the line-out, Llangennech moved the ball rather ponderously and a solid tackle from full-back Michael Hathaway caused a loose pass to be thrown.

Left wing Lindsay MacCausland swooped onto it and raced fully 60m to score under the posts. Steve Lewis converted.

Llangennech had made their intentions clear and more muscular driving play pushed the Athletic back and, following a good break by scrum-half M Gibson, the Athletic conceded a penalty which wing M Lemon sent over to open his team's account.

The Athletic now had territory of their own and though the line-out was not functioning well, they managed to keep possession until a loose pass in mid-field was seized by home centre A Warren.

He made ground quickly behind the visitors' defensive line to find all-action flanker Rob Foley in support and he raced over from 50 metres for a try which Lemon converted. Llangennech had a good grip of possession now and again play came back into the Athletic half for another penalty in front, goaled by Lemon. Straight from the restart, it was

**LLANGENNECH RFC
BRIDGEND ATHLETIC
Report by MARK DAVIES**

**30
24**

more of the same as a kick set the Athletic back into their 22 and another line-out was lost.

The home forwards went to work and drove ever closer to the Athletic line before releasing the ball for a short pass to centre S. Fletcher allowed him to scramble over for another try, converted by Lemon, to make the half-time score **Llangennech 20 Bridgend Athletic 7.**

At last, the Athletic seemed to wake up and made a determined start to the second half. Rod Davies was tackled just short but a poor kick out of defence by Llangennech was returned with interest by MacCausland.

Quick ruck ball and a narrow angled run by Davies allowed the ball to reach Hathaway who out-paced the defence for a try, converted by Lewis.

At this point, hard working lock Jamie Doherty was replaced by Conor McDonald but still the scrum was under pressure. Dan Apsee picked up and tried to break away, but his pass to Hywel Davies put the centre in trouble and Llangennech seized their opportunity to move the ball, and once again flanker Foley was in the right place at the right time to run in under the posts for his second converted try.

Full-back Hathaway had been injured in the previous play and he left the field to be replaced by youth team wing Rhys Jones.

It wasn't long before the youngster was involved when a hoisted kick out of defence by Llangennech was magnificently taken by Tom Penry-Ellis on the touch line.

He had the presence of mind to slip the ball inside to the supporting Jones, who was backed up by Simon Mustoe, who drove at the Llangennech line. The pack, with Matthew Hillman in the van, won quick ball and Hywel Davies's long pass to MacCausland gave the wing a free run to the line for his second of the day. Again Lewis converted.

Although under pressure at the scrums, the Athletic props Dai Price and young Rod Apsee had put in

great work around the park, with Price pulling off a crucial cover tackle to deny the home team in one of their forays down the right.

So it was with a deserved rest ahead of him that Price was replaced by Matthew Norman with 20 minutes still to play. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be as Norman's late challenge on Llangennech full-back M Jacobs caused a flare-up on the touchline which involved the majority of players from both sides in an unseemly display of ill-discipline.

The upshot was a yellow-card for Norman, and another penalty to put Llangennech nine points ahead.

Surprisingly, this was the only score the Athletic conceded while Norman was off, and Price took the place of Jonny Jones. The Athletic were finishing stronger and with only minutes left, opted for a kick at goal to reduce the deficit to six.

It all seemed up when Llangennech gained possession with 90 seconds left but again determined defence and disruptive counter-driving caused Llangennech to concede a penalty as time ran out.

Youth team scrum-half Tom Davies popped the ball to Hillman who drove in, only for the Athletic to be given another penalty 10m further on. Again Davies fed his forwards and play surged to within 15m of the Llangennech line.

The ball was moved to centre Davies, who drifted through the gap only for his would-be scoring pass to fellow centre, (and new dad), Rob Coles to be disrupted by a despairing grab by a defender – and the Athletic just missed out in a nail-biter.

Of course, the players were disappointed with the result but at the end of a hard campaign it was good to see youngsters being given the opportunity to show their skills on the senior stage, and it shows that the coaches have more home-grown talent to strengthen their squad in the close season.

Bridgend Athletic play their final game of the season at Corus (Port Talbot) on Saturday and still hope to rise above them into fourth place in Division One West.

**PHOTOGRAPHS BY
KERRY FOTHERGILL**



ABOVE: Jamie Doherty drives on with Tom Davies in support.



ABOVE: Rob Coles evades an opposing Llangennech centre.

League leaders stay at the top

B ATTACK demonstrated just why they sit at the summit of the Bridgend six-a-side Premier Division and boast an unbeaten record, as Greg Howell orchestrated a 9-1 mauling of The Pie Boys.

Bob Rhys was influential for Hangover Heroes, however, as they kept the pressure on with a 4-2 defeat of Persil Boys FC.

Croissants are up to third as Matthew Bowen pulled the strings in their 2-0 win over Day Sleepers, while Dunraven saw off the challenge of Racing Inter by the same score-line, Alan Rumph starring.

The Colts are looking a formidable force in the first division as they preserved their 100 per cent record with a comfortable 4-1 win over BTCV Cymru, Sam Jones putting in a fine performance.

Athletico Brackla are also looking strong as Scott Jones starred in their 3-0 defeat of Team Extreme. Elsewhere, Hardly Athletic edged past Young Exiles 3-2, while Dead End Jobs battled to a 2-0 win over Laleston Lions.

If anyone is interested in joining the Bridgend six-a-side Leisure League, they can call 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net

Premier Division

Team Name	Played	Goal Diff	Points
B Attack	5	17	9
Hangover Heroes	5	1	7
Croissants	5	9	6
dunraven	5	3	6
Day Sleepers	5	0	6
Racing Inter	5	-2	4
The Pie Boys	5	-14	2
Persil Boys FC	5	-14	0

THE GEM QUIZ LEAGUE POSERS

HERE are your four specials:

1 In Italian cuisine, what term means a dish cooked in an oven?

2 Which organ of the body was once regarded as the source of anger and melancholy?

3 Which back row forward who made his debut against Wales in 2007 now plays for

Stade Francais?
4 Who wrote the words 'Seasons of Mist and mellow fruitfulness, close bosom friend of the maturing sun'?

A Rudge (Hon sec BGQL)
4 Keads.
3 James Huskell
2 Spieken.
1 Al Forno.
Answers:

Teams warm up for finals day

Brackla RFC played Bridgend Athletic Seconds in a friendly match, arranged to give both teams competitive rugby as a warm-up to District Finals day at Maesteg on May 8.

Brackla meet Heol y Cyw Seconds in the plate final, followed by the Athletic Seconds v Llanharan Seconds in the district cup final.

The Athletic started the stronger and, following a driving maul by the forwards, the ball was released to wing Chris Harris to cross in the corner.

Although the competition was fierce, it was the Athletic who had the cutting edge, taking their chances for D Prosser, Andrew Brown and Chris McGrath to cross for further tries, all converted by Tom Cole to give the Athletic a 26-0 lead at the interval.

The second half continued in the same competitive vein. However, the home supporters were becoming increasingly frustrated as their side, despite exerting pressure on the Athletic, failed to score.

Passes were dropped, knocked on or possession turned over close to the Athletic try line.

In contrast, when the Athletic attacked they were clinical, resulting in tries for Lloyd Pemberton, Tom Cole and Levi Jenkins.

Tom Cole and Carl Ellis added the extras for the Athletic to run out 45-0 winners.

Pencoed cricket

PENCOED Cricket Club starts its season this Saturday in Division One of the Thomas Carroll Welsh League after two successive promotion seasons.

The first team are away at Abercynon, with the second team also playing Abercynon at home. The club aims to continue its progress by running an under-15 team, who start their season at home today (Thursday) against Port.

Anyone who wishes to join the club can either email the club at pencoedcc@live.com or contact Martin on 07890625936.

TWO GOOD WINS IN A WEEK FOR PENCOED UNDER-12s

PENCOED UNDER-12S welcomed Cefn Cribwr in a mid-week game and made a sluggish start, taking time to settle.

Eventually, Ben Gwyther danced through, only to be taken down in the box, and Evan Price stepped up to convert the penalty.

Ben Gwyther created the second when he crossed for Lewis Butler to make it 2-0.

Cefn Cribwr kept battling and didn't give Pencoed an easy ride.

Connor Goldsworthy was next to put in a dangerous cross and this time Ben Gwyther was there to put the ball in the back of the net for a 3-0 half-time lead.

Pencoed made some changes and it was 10 minutes before they started to find their passing game, resulting in a fantastic goal from Jordan Burrows which started

deep in defence.

Cefn created chances but couldn't find the back of the net, and finally Jacob Lloyd scored with a fantastic volley – one which any striker would have been proud of. **Final score Pencoed 5, Cefn Cribwr 0.**

BYNTIRION

Pencoed travelled to Bryntirion on a lovely Saturday morning and took control from the off with brilliant one-touch passing.

After five minutes, Lewis Butler scored, and Jacob Lloyd was next on the scoresheet. In fact, he added a further two to grab a quick hat-trick, giving Pencoed a 4-0 lead.

Bryntirion struggled to gain possession and Jordan Burrows was next to score with a well-taken goal.

Pencoed made some changes in the second half but this didn't

affect their performance, with Jordan Burrows getting his second goal minutes into the half.

Lewis Butler was next to score with his second goal of the match, giving Pencoed a 7-0 lead.

They were not tiring and Jacob Lloyd got his fourth with a well-taken goal, and Connor Goldsworthy was next to score and got his second soon after.

Lewis Butler was next to score, giving him his hat-trick.

Pencoed switched off for a few minutes and Bryntirion capitalised with a well-taken goal. Pencoed responded and Aaron Leyshon hit a lovely strike to give Pencoed a 12-1 final score.

The whole squad for Pencoed had a fantastic game and everyone deserved man of the match.

CG

Winners gear up for the Laleston Steeplechases

THE Llangenor Hunt is holding its annual point-to-point steeplechases at Laleston, near Bridgend, on Saturday.

A number of recent winners have been entered and these include Joan Williams's *Galtee View*, which landed the Welsh point-to-point 'Grand National' last weekend, Brett Lloyd's *Roznic*, a winner of his only two starts this season, William Tudor's *Merthymawr*, who gave local rider Amber Griffiths (19) her first winner in just six rides when winning the restricted at the recent Ystrad Taf

Danny Boy who beat *Frenchfurze Lad* at Bonvilston last Saturday.

Other well-known point-to-pointers entered include *Micks Prospect*, *Silver Story*, *Rimini* and *Makena*.

Two to note in the maiden races are *What An Occasion* and *Synisterdexter*.

Racing gets under way with the members' race, for which there are 15 entries, at 2pm and an added attraction will be two pony races which will complete the card.

Brian Lee

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